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CONFIDENTIAL.

F.O. 424/27B

F.O.
424

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

CONSUL BURTON'S PROCEEDINGS

AT

DAMASCUS.

1868-71.

27
B

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.					Page
1.	Lord Stanley to Consul Burton	..	(No. 1.)	December 3, 1868	1
2.	Consul Burton to Mr. Hammond		(Separate)	March 30, 1869	1
3.	Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon	(No. 45.	Commercial)	May 3, ——	2
4.	Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon	..	(Separate)	June 1, ——	2
5.	Consul Burton to Mr. Murray	..	(Separate)	June 14, ——	2
6.	Mr. Murray to Consul Burton	..	(Separate)	June 19, ——	3
7.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot	(No. 41.	Commercial)	June 22, ——	3
8.	Consul Burton to Mr. Murray	..	(Separate)	June 21, ——	3
9.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot	(No. 48.	Commercial)	July 2, ——	3
10.	Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon	..	(Separate)	July 16, ——	4
11.	Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon	..	(No. 290)	July 5, ——	4
12.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot	(No. 57.	Commercial)	July 20, ——	4
13.	Mr. Wood to the Earl of Clarendon	..	(No. 11)	October 6, ——	5
14.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot	..	(Telegraphic)	October 28, ——	5
15.	Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon	..	(Telegraphic)	October 29, ——	5
16.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 11)	August 28, 1870	5
	One Inclosure.				
17.	Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	..	January 11, 1871	6
18.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 25.	Confidential)	January 15, ——	6
	One Inclosure.				
19.	Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	..	February 23, ——	8
	One Inclosure.				
20.	Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville	..	(No. 8)	January 30, ——	9
21.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 11.	Commercial)	February 14, ——	11
22.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot .. .	(No. 26.	Commercial)	April 10, ——	12
23.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 41.	Commercial)	April 22, ——	12
24.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 52.	Commercial)	May 25, ——	13
25.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 52.	Commercial)	May 22, ——	13
	Two Inclosures.				
26.	Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha . ..	..	..	May 24, ——	14
	One Inclosure.				
26A.	Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha	..	..	June 9, ——	15
26B.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 2.)	May 20, ——	15
27.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 3)	May 20, ——	15
	One Inclosure.				
28.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 65.	Commercial)	June 5, ——	16
	Two Inclosures.				
29.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 7.	Commercial)	June 14, ——	17
30.	Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton	..	(No. 1)	June 14, ——	18
31.	Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	(Telegraphic)	June 20, ——	18
32.	Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton	..	(No. 2)	June 23, ——	18
33.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 73.	Commercial)	June 16, ——	18
	Two Inclosures.				
34.	Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville ..	..	(No. 9. Political)	June 16, ——	20
	Three Inclosures.				
34*.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 72.	Commercial)	July 1, ——	21
35.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 78.	Commercial)	June 26, ——	21
	Six Inclosures.				
36.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	..	(No. 79)	June 26, ——	27
	Five Inclosures.				
37.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 81.	Commercial)	July 5, ——	31
	One Inclosure.				
38.	Earl Granville to Consul Burton	..	(No. 3)	July 22, ——	32
39.	Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge ..	(No. 18.	Consular)	July 24, ——	32
40.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 78.	Confidential)	July 14, ——	32
41.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 5)	July 1, ——	33
	One Inclosure.				
42.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 18)	July 5, ——	34
	Three Inclosures.				
43.	Mr. Drake to Earl Granville	..	..	July 8, ——	38
44.	Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville ..	..	(No. 12)	July 12, ——	39
	One Inclosure.				
45.	Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 9)	July 12, ——	40
	Two Inclosures.				

No.					Page
46. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	(No. 91.	Commercial)	July	24, 1871	41
47. Mr. Odo Russell to Mr. Drake	..	..	August	4, ——	43
48. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(No. 8)	July	11, ——	43
49. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. Three Inclosures.	..	(No. 11)	July	17, ——	48
50. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(Separate)	July	21, ——	50
51. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	July	21, ——	51
52. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(No. 28)	July	21, ——	52
53. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	July	24, ——	53
54. Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot	..	(No. 10)	June	18, ——	55
55. Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 85.	Commercial)	August	11, ——	56
56. Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton	..	(No. 4)	August	12, ——	57
57. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	July	26, ——	57
58. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Two Inclosures.	(No. 100.	Commercial)	August	6, ——	58
59. Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville. Two Inclosures.	..	(No. 26)	August	11, ——	58
60. Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville	..	(No. 27)	August	14, ——	60
61. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville	(No. 109.	Commercial)	August	24, ——	60
62. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(Separate)	August	14, ——	61
63. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. Four Inclosures.	..	(Separate)	August	14, ——	62
64. Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge	(No. 22.	Commercial)	September	5, ——	63
65. Extract from the "Standard" of September 7, 1871	..	..	..	..	65
66. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	August	17, ——	66
67. Acting-Consul Jago to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	August	16, ——	66
68. Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 106.	Commercial)	September	12, ——	66
69. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	August	19, ——	67
70. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Four Inclosures.	(No. 112.	Commercial)	September	5, ——	68
71. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	September	18, ——	70
72. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Three Inclosures.	(No. 117.	Commercial)	September	9, ——	70
73. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Two Inclosures.	..	(No. 118)	September	13, ——	74
74. Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 112.	Confidential)	September	22, ——	76
75. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	September	22, ——	76
76. Mr. Odo Russell to Sir H. Elliot	..	(Telegraphic)	September	23, ——	76
77. Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton	..	..	September	27, ——	76
78. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	October	1, ——	76
79. Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge. One Inclosure.	..	(No. 26)	October	14, ——	77
80. Consul Burton to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(Separate)	October	16, ——	78
81. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	August	30, ——	92
82. Acting Consul Jago to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(No. 1)	September	28, ——	93
83. Earl Granville to Consul Burton	..	..	October	25, ——	94
84. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	(No. 138.	Commercial)	September	14, ——	95
85. Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville. One Inclosure.	..	(No. 41)	October	23, ——	95
86. Consul Burton to Earl Granville	..	(Separate)	November	12, ——	96
87. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Three Inclosures.	(No. 144.	Commercial)	November	6, ——	96
88. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Six Inclosures.	(No. 145.	Commercial)	November	6, ——	98
89. Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville	..	(No. 44)	November	4, ——	102
90. Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 128.	Commercial)	November	23, ——	103
91. Mr. Hammond to Consul-General Eldridge	..	(No. 28)	November	24, ——	103
92. Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. Three Inclosures.	(No. 160.	Commercial)	November	28, ——	103
93. Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot	(No. 136.	Commercial)	December	11, ——	104

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Consul Burton's Proceedings at Damascus.

No. 1.

Lord Stanley to Consul Burton.

(No. 1.) *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1868.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus in the place of Mr. Rogers, who has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul at Cairo, and I herewith inclose a certified copy of Her Majesty's Commission to that effect.

Your experience of the details of the Consular service renders it unnecessary for me to furnish you with instructions with regard to your duties at your new post. I need only remind you that Her Majesty's Government attach great importance to the punctual transmission to this office of the various returns required by the General Consular Instructions, and of any further information which you may be able to obtain relating to commerce and navigation, or any other branch of statistics.

The salary attached to this appointment is at the rate of 700*l.* a year, and an allowance of 300*l.* a year will be made to you for office expenses.

You are restricted from engaging in commercial pursuits, and all fees by law leviable by Her Majesty's Consuls are to be collected on account of Her Majesty's Government in conformity with the directions given in Paragraph 9 of the General Instructions.

Your salary and allowance will be issued to your assigns at the office of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General in London, in equal quarterly payments, and they are to cover, so far as this office is concerned, not only the expenses of your maintenance, but also the ordinary expenses of your Consulate.

Such of the fees as are collected under the Orders in Council relative to Consular Jurisdiction in the Levant (Judicial Fees) must be dealt with in accordance with the orders which you will find in the Consulate.

A sum of 160*l.* is assigned to you for outfit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 2.

Consul Burton to Mr. Hammond.—(Received May 12.)

(Separate.) *Buenos Ayres, March* 30, 1869.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Stanley's despatches of December 3 and 7, 1868,* and to request that you will be good enough to convey to Lord Stanley the expression of my best thanks for the honour which Her Gracious Majesty has done me, in appointing me through him Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

I have the honour to add that I have only this day, on my return from a tour over the Andes, received my appointment and commission as Her Majesty's Consul at

* Instructing him at once to proceed to his post.

Damascus, and consequently that I return to England on my way to my post by the next Royal Mail steam-packet leaving on April 26. In the meantime I intend to utilize the delay by proceeding to Paraguay in order to finish a Report upon the present exceptional and sanguinary war, which I had already commenced in a former journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 3.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 45. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 3, 1869.*

IT is my duty to inform your Lordship that the prospect of the arrival of Captain Burton, as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, is viewed with apprehension by many persons connected with that place.

Damascus is probably the most fanatical town in the Empire, and the presence there, in the character of British Consul, of a person who had penetrated to the Prophet's shrine, is regarded as certain to cause exhibitions against him that may be productive of very undesirable consequences.

By the Mussulman population Captain Burton is regarded either as having insulted their religion by taking part as an unbeliever in their most sacred rites, or else as having, at that time, been a Mahomedan and having become a renegade.

Under either supposition he would be regarded with aversion by most, and with hatred by very many of the population, and it is my duty to draw your Lordship's attention to a consideration which was probably lost sight of when Captain Burton was selected for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 3.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square,*
My Lord, *June 1, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on my return to Buenos Ayres (March 29, 1869,) I received Lord Stanley's despatch No. 1 of 1868 transferring me to the Consulate of Damascus. I set out for my new post with the first departure of the Royal Mail on April 26, 1869, and arrived in England on this day. I am now awaiting, before continuing my journey to Damascus, any further orders with which your Lordship may be pleased to honour me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 5.

Consul Burton to Mr. Murray.—(Received June 15.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square,*
Sir, *June 14, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter of June 7, 1869,* and to return thanks to the Earl of Clarendon for having allowed me six weeks' leave of absence before proceeding to my new post at Damascus.

I beg, however, to state that I have been advised, after my last attack of hepatitis in the Brazil, to prepare for another residence of some years in a hot climate by a course of Vichy waters. His Lordship would, therefore, confer upon me an additional favour by permitting me, after reporting departure from England, to proceed to Beyrout *vid* Vichy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

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* Granting six weeks' leave.

No. 6.

Mr. Murray to Consul Burton.

(Separate.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1869.*

WITH reference to your Separate despatch of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon, in communicating to you his Lordship's sanction of the arrangements therein proposed for your proceeding to your post, to take this opportunity of repeating to you what his Lordship has already verbally stated to you, that very serious objections to your appointment at Damascus have reached him from official quarters, and that, although Lord Clarendon has allowed that appointment to go forward on receiving from you assurances that the objections raised were unfounded, his Lordship has warned you that that if the feeling stated to exist against you on the part of the authorities and people at that place should prevent the proper performance by you of your official duties, it would be his Lordship's duty immediately to recall you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MURRAY.

No. 7.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 41. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 22, 1869.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 45, Commercial, of the 3rd ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Consul Burton,* placing on record what I have stated to him personally, regarding the serious objections which, according to your Report, are entertained to his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 8.

Consul Burton to Mr. Murray.—(Received June 30.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square,*
Sir, *London, June 21, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Separate despatch of the 19th instant, and to express my gratitude for the sanction with which his Lordship has favoured me.

I now renew in writing the verbal statement in which I assured his Lordship that neither the authorities nor the people of Damascus will show for me any but the most friendly feeling; that they will, in fact, receive me as did the Egyptians and the people of Zanzibar for years after my journey to Mecca. But, as designing persons may have attempted to complicate the situation, I once more undertake to act with unusual prudence, and, under all circumstances, to hold myself only answerable for all the consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 9.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 48. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1869.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from Captain Burton,† in reply to the one addressed to him upon the subject of the objections raised

* No. 6. † No. 8.

to his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, a copy of which was sent to your Excellency in my despatch No. 41, Commercial, of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 17.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Howlett's Hotel, 36, Manchester Street, July 16, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I leave England this day *en route* for the post at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 11.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 5, 1869.*

RASHID PASHA, the Governor-General of Syria, in the course of his visit to me this morning, asked, with some anxiety, whether Captain Burton was expected to proceed to the Consulate of Damascus.

I said that I believed he might shortly be expected there, but that he had been warned by your Lordship to be extremely careful to avoid doing anything calculated to give offence, or to create susceptibility on the part of the people of Damascus.

Your Lordship, I observed, could not properly cancel an appointment made by your predecessor, but had laid strict injunctions upon Captain Burton, which he would not be likely to neglect; and in return for these I trusted that the authorities would exert themselves to prevent his being subjected to any annoyance.

His Excellency answered that a British Consul who would be regarded as a renegade Mussulman must necessarily find himself in a very difficult position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 12.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 57. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1869.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 290 of the 5th instant, which should have been included in your Consular series, I have to state to you that I approve of the language held by you to the Governor-General of Syria in regard to Captain Burton's appointment.

Captain Burton left this country on the 16th instant, on his way to his post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

P.S.—I have to add that I gave Captain Burton leave to go to Vichy, and not to proceed to his post till October, when, according to Consul-General Eldridge, the unhealthy season will be over.

No. 13.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, October 6, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival, on the 3rd instant, of Captain Richard Burton. Not being furnished with the requisite Berat, he was unable to enter into official relations with the Local Authorities, though he has exchanged friendly unofficial visits with Rashid Pasha. I am, therefore, still in charge of this Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. WOOD.

No. 14.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 28, 1869.*

APPLY to Porte at once for issue of Berat to Captain Burton as Consul at Damascus.

No. 15.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 29, 1869.*

BERAT was sent to Consul-General Eldridge on the 8th instant, immediately on receiving telegraphic intimation of Captain Burton's arrival.

No. 16.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, August 28, 1870.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, August 28, 1870.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that troubles were expected in Damascus yesterday (Saturday, August 27) when the Redif was being mustered. Crosses had been drawn on the ground and in the water-closets of the mosques, as happened in 1860. Christians had been threatened in the streets and bazaars, many families left the city, and in some instances the newly-arrived troops showed a hostile animus. The Ottoman authorities, however, have been alive to a sense of their danger, and as long as they do their duty there will never be a massacre at Damascus. The Redif, including those from Aleppo and elsewhere, and now numbering 1,600 men, was sent out of the city, not through the Christian quarter, where there would have been a disturbance, but *viâ* the Dahdah and the Zaynabyeh to the villages of Kusayr, Sawwan, and Kabun, distant about one hour's ride. Here a camp has been pitched for them, and they will be drilled for a month.

The Moslem population has been excited against the Christians, unjustly attributing to the latter the mustering of the Redif, which has never yet been called out at Damascus. I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice the admirable conduct of his Excellency Holo Pasha, formerly acting Mutasarrif of this city, and now

transferred to St. John d'Acre. He has patrolled the streets in person during every night, and has been ceaseless in his endeavours to arrest the evil intentioned. It is with regret that I see such a man transferred to Acre, instead of being placed at some important post at Hamah, Tripoli, or other disturbed district, where his presence would be a benefit to Syria. His views have been thwarted by Said Effendi Ustwdani, President of the Majlis Tamyiz el-Hukuk, a fanatical and bigoted man, who refuses to receive Christian testimony, and who, relying upon the interest of his Excellency Rushdi Pasha, gratifies his prejudice against aliens to his faith by stirring up the bad feelings of the Moslems.

Amongst the minor officials I would bring to your Excellency's notice the names of Ismail Agha and Serur Agha. The former is Acting Commandant of Police at Damascus during the absence at Jerusalem of his Chief, Mustafa Bey. Had the latter been in this city, my belief is that the lives of the Christian population would have been in imminent danger. The second has lately been made Yuzbashi of Police, and is well known in the dangerous and excitable Maydan quarter; he has set an excellent example, and deserves reward. He will receive none if Mustafa Bey return.

His Excellency the Wali Rashid Pasha is still at Jerusalem. His Excellency the Mushir Mohammed Rifat Pasha left Damascus at a day's notice on Thursday, the 25th instant. We regret the departure of this officer, whose courtesy and readiness to oblige were exceptional at Damascus. Until yesterday, when his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha received his orders to take charge, there was no Mutasarrif, or Governor of the city. We have, therefore, been living almost without authority, and the Christians mainly owe their safety to the excellent conduct of the three officers above mentioned.

Since my letter of the 11th of July, 1870, one Protestant school has been closed, and three others were threatened with closing by the local Mudirs, who acted, they said, under orders from Damascus. I at once procured a counter-order from his Excellency Holo Pasha, then acting Governor of the city, and no complaints upon the subject have since reached me. The closing of the schools is generally attributed to the animus excited by the ill-judged proceedings of Mr. Mentor Mott.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 17.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January .*)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 11 *Janvier*, 1871.

VOTRE Excellence trouvera, ci-joint, la copie d'une note verbale confidentielle adressée à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople, relativement à M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.*

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, la présence de cet Agent à Damas ne saurait se prolonger plus longtemps sans de graves inconvénients. Son Excellence Sir Henry Elliot, appréciant la justesse de nos griefs contre M. Burton, va écrire à son Gouvernement. Votre Excellence voudra bien dans le cas où Lord Granville l'entretiendrait de cette affaire, faire en sorte d'amener le remplacement de cet Agent.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AALI.

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 31.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 15, 1871.

THE Confidential Memorandum of which I have the honour herewith to inclose a copy, is the extract of a letter from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha, complaining of Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

What is stated of the good reception given to Captain Burton by the authorities on his arrival at Damascus, notwithstanding the repugnance with which they viewed his appointment, is perfectly correct; but, although it was boasted of by him at the time,

* Inclosure in No. 18.

it was entirely owing to my having told the Governor-General, who feared some exhibition of fanaticism, that I held him responsible for Captain Burton being received with all the respect due to a British Consul.

I must do his Excellency the justice to say, that he faithfully kept the promise which he then made me.

It is difficult to be accurately informed as to what is doing by our own Agents at such a distant place as Damascus, and I am slow to accept the criticism passed by hostile, and perhaps interested, parties, or by Turkish officials, who may have had differences with them; but your Lordship is aware that I have for some time back been apprehensive that Captain Burton's proceedings were of a nature to give ground for anxiety, although it would have been impossible for me to bring forward any one act sufficient to justify a recommendation of his removal from his Consulate.

The complaint of the Governor-General, embodied in the Memorandum now inclosed, is likewise founded upon Captain Burton's character and general proceedings.

I had heard vaguely and unofficially of the occurrence mentioned in the Memorandum, when Mrs. Burton was said, with her own hand, to have horse-whipped a person whom she considered as having failed in showing the respect she thought due to her, and when a shot was fired by one of her attendants; but an unwillingness to have the name of a lady brought forward in such an affair had prevented me from inquiring into it.

Although the emoluments of the Consulate at Damascus were raised upon the appointment of Captain Burton, I have always questioned the necessity of keeping it up upon the present scale; and I am only waiting for the report of Mr. Kennedy before submitting the question of its reduction to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Note-Verbale.

(Confidentielle.) *Le* 11 *Janvier*, 1871.

LORSQUE M. Rogers, ex-Consul d'Angleterre à Damas, fut désigné pour le poste du Cairo, la nomination de son successeur M. Burton produisit une fâcheuse impression sur les lieux. Le séjour de M. Burton dans le Hedjaz, où il avait embrassé l'Islamisme, faisait craindre que la population de Damas ne vit pas avec plaisir l'arrivée du nouveau Consul. Il n'en fut rien pourtant.

La considération dont jouit en Turquie un Consul d'Angleterre est telle que le passé de M. Burton ne fut pas remué, et que le Consul rencontra partout un accueil favorable, notamment auprès des autorités locales. En effet, celles-ci firent tout ce qui dépendait d'elles pour entretenir des rapports amicaux avec lui et le traitèrent sur le même pied que ses collégues, quoiqu'à proprement parler M. Burton ne soit pas un Consul commes les autres. La Sublime Porte ne veut pas s'étendre ici sur la conduite personnelle de cet agent, sur ses longues et fréquentes absences, au point que les relations des autorités Impériales avec lui et ses propres affaires en souffrent. Elle ne veut pas non plus s'occuper des excursions qu'il fait de tous côtés, accompagné de sa dame, exposés tous les deux à toute espèce de périls, ni des chasses aux bêtes féroces auxquelles ils se livrent dans les défilés les plus suspects, et où les accidents de tout genre sont probables.

M. Burton va dresser sa tente aux confins du désert, la promène dans les villages les plus éloignés, campe pour plusieurs jours dans les cités les plus sauvages. Comme homme M. Burton n'intéresse personne; c'est comme Consul d'Angleterre que sa présence devient inquiétante à Damas, et c'est ce que la Sublime Porte croit devoir faire connaître confidentiellement à Sa Majesté Britannique.

Malheureusement, M. Burton a, on ne sait pour quel motif, une aversion toute spéciale pour la nation Musulmane, et ce qui rend surtout son attitude hostile le plus étrange c'est qu'elle est diamétralement opposée à la politique de son Gouvernement vis-à-vis de la Turquie et à la conduite de ces prédécesseurs. Dans ses conversations avec tout le monde, et jusque dans celles qu'il a avec le Gouverneur-Général de Syrie, il ne cesse de représenter les Musulmans toujours surexcités, les Chrétiens épouvantés, d'où il ne tarde point à faire naître des massacres, et toutes ces idées absurdes, tous les pronostics funestes qu'il puise dans son imagination, il les soutient et les propage dans un moment où la Syrie n'a jamais joui d'une tranquillité et d'une sécurité aussi parfaite dans un moment où les relations entre Chrétiens et Musulmans non seulement sont très

hommes, mais tendent encore à devenir meilleurs, grâce à l'exemple donné par les autorités. M. Burton n'hésite pas à avancer ces mêmes idées dans les lettres qu'il écrit au Gouverneur-Général. Ses sentiments et ses dispositions se sont fait jour d'une manière plus éclatante encore dans un incident qui eut lieu récemment.

Le Consul d'Angleterre habitait dernièrement avec sa femme dans un village éloigné de quelques heures de Damas. Madame Burton allait un jour à l'église, lorsqu'elle fouetta de sa propre main un jeune Musulman qui ne s'était pas levé sur son passage; ensuite un de ses domestiques fit feu sur ce même jeune homme sous prétexte qu'il aurait été insolent pendant qu'on le fouettait. Quoiqu'une enquête soit ouverte en ce moment, M. Burton ne veut pas poursuivre l'affaire régulièrement et légalement; mais travestissant le fait, il finit pas revenir sur son thème favori et dire que les Chrétiens sont menacés, que la sécurité dans les environs n'existe plus, qu'on est à la veille des événements de 1860. Cette idée a tellement pénétré dans l'esprit de M. Burton qu'à l'occasion de la dernière note Russe, il ne douta plus d'une guerre. De là à un soulèvement en Syrie il n'y a qu'un pas pour lui, et il a répété partout qu'il réunirait les 4,000 ou 5,000 Algériens qui se trouvent en Syrie pour se mettre à leur tête et protéger les Chrétiens. M. Burton est allé jusqu'à dire qu'il avait demandé à son Gouvernement l'autorisation d'en agir ainsi. D'où il faut conclure que cet Agent désire réellement et à tout prix que des désordres se produisent pour qu'il puisse jouer probablement un rôle et se faire remarquer.

Tel est ce Consul, chassant les ours, désertant sa chancellerie, négligeant ses affaires et celles des autorités locales, médisant de la population Musulmane, qu'il représente sous les couleurs les plus fausses, ayant les relations les plus intimes avec les gens les plus malfamés dans les pays et les plus compromis dans les événements passés; permettant à sa femme de se promener en ville portant sur elle des armes à feu, afin d'indisposer les Musulmans et de donner à entendre aux Chrétiens que la sécurité est compromise; rempli de malveillance marquée envers les autorités, qu'il bafoue dans ses conversations ici et dans les correspondances qu'il publie dans le "Levant Herald." Musulman naguère lui-même, il a en horreur aujourd'hui les Musulmans; tel est le Consul que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a envoyé à Damas, et avec lequel les autorités Impériales ont fait jusqu'à ce jour et continuent à faire des efforts infructueux pour entretenir des relations cordiales. La présence de M. Burton à Damas est d'autant plus pénible que la population a toujours considéré le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique comme l'allié le plus sincère de la Turquie et le plus sympathique aux Musulmans, tandis qu'aujourd'hui cette même population, en face des faits et gestes du nouveau Consul, est à se demander si les dispositions de l'Angleterre ne sont plus les mêmes.

En lui exposant exactement l'attitude et la conduite de M. Burton, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères espère que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique n'hésitera pas à prendre à son égard les mesures qu'il a justement méritées par sa manière d'agir.

No. 19.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March .)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 23 Février*, 1871.

POUR faire suite à ma dépêche du 11 Janvier, je m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-joint, la traduction d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir du Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Syrie, concernant M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de ce télégramme, l'attitude de cet Agent devient de plus en plus intolérable. Vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, dans vos entretiens avec Lord Granville faire ressortir les graves inconvénients de la conduite de M. Burton et amener son remplacement.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AALI.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégramme.) *Le 18 Janvier*, 1871, v. s.

J'AI eu l'honneur d'exposer précédemment en détail la conduite inconvenante de M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.

Aujourd'hui cet Agent dit ostensiblement à tout le monde que, sur la demande de l'Angleterre, le Gouvernement Impérial va bientôt déclarer la guerre à la Russie, et qu'il n'y a pas de doute que la population Musulmane de ces contrées ne massacre alors les Chrétiens. M. Burton s'occupe constamment de répandre de pareils bruits dangereux pour la tranquillité publique. Le Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Beyrouth connait les faits et gestes de cet Agent, les regrette vivement, mais il ne peut pas les empêcher.

De son côté, Madame Burton se promène chaque jour dans la ville et seconde ainsi les vues de son mari. L'on sait, il est vrai, que M. Burton est un homme exalté; mais, comme il a la qualité de Consul d'une Grande Puissance, la population attache quelque importance à son attitude. Je prends donc la liberté de signaler la nécessité absolue de remédier promptement à cet état de choses.

No. 20.

Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 8.) *Cairo, January 30*, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the following observations respecting Consular arrangements in Syria, which admit of being considered independent of the general questions of British Consular arrangements in the Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Consul-General for that Province is vested with jurisdiction over the Consulates of Alleppo, Damascus, and Jerusalem, and various Vice-Consulates.

Syria is inhabited by people of various and opposite character, differing in race and religion, divided into several distinct communities, of which none predominates over the others, and yet having interests so intermingled that mere local questions excite general concern; and thus a movement, which in its commencement is a purely local affair, may at any moment spread over the whole country. In no part of Turkey is such care required to prevent actual causes of discontent, personal ambition, or sectarian rivalries from leading to an outbreak. It is, therefore, more necessary in Syria than in other countries that Consular action should be uniform.

I would not recommend that any alteration should be made with respect to the footing of the Aleppo Consulate; but it is advisable that the Consul at Aleppo should furnish the Consul-General, more regularly than now appears to be the case, with copies of all his political despatches, especially of those relating to Arab affairs.* Beyrout and Damascus are so near, and communication between the two places by means of a good carriage road on which a daily coach runs, as well as by telegraph, is so easy, that in the abstract it would seem better to station resident Vice-Consuls at those places, both to be under the direct superintendence of the Consul-General, who should reside at, or visit each place, according to the requirements of the public service. The Governor-General of Syria, to whom he is accredited, resides chiefly at Damascus. Even should it be expedient to maintain a full Consulate at Damascus, either to preserve equality with the Agents of other powers, or for general political considerations relative to the importance of the place, it would be for the advantage of the public service to place the post immediately under the Consul-General.

The present emoluments of the Consulate at Damascus are 700*l.* a year salary, and 300*l.* office allowance: if placed on the revised footing 500*l.* and 200*l.* a year, respectively would be sufficient.† The salary assigned to the Consul-General, 1,000*l.* a year, is sufficient; but his office allowance, 250*l.* a year, does not defray actual office expenses. I would submit that it should at once be raised to 300*l.* with 100*l.* extra as a salary for the first Dragoman.‡ But if the Consul-General should be directed to visit Damascus as well as reside at Beyrout,—which, inasmuch as during the summer he is compelled, on

* Instructions to this effect have been given.
† The Consulate at Damascus has been reduced to a Vice-Consulate on this footing.
‡ These increases of allowance and salary have been made.

account of the climate, to take a house in the Lebanon, and is thus between the two places, could easily be done,—the office allowance must be further raised, and its amount must be again increased if an arrangement which I venture to think would be very beneficial, should be adopted, namely, that he should be instructed to visit annually different parts of his large Consular District, so as to become thoroughly cognizant with current local events.

I do not recommend any alteration in regard to the Consulate at Jerusalem; except that, if the Porte continues to object to Mr. Kayat's appointment as Vice-Consul at Jaffa, the duties of the post should be intrusted to the Consul at Jerusalem.

The post is necessary, and so long as there is no qualified resident to hold it, the arrangement I suggest seems to be the only practicable course to pursue. The Consul at Jerusalem should maintain an office, with a clerk or a Dragoman, at Jaffa, and the salary, 100*l.* a year, might be given as a personal allowance to mark clearly the precise nature of the arrangement.*

Statements made to me respecting British trade in Northern Syria induce me to think that a Vice-Consulate, to be held as a salaried post by a British subject, is much wanted at Alexandretta. It is now an unpaid Vice-Consulate, and is vacant owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable person to take it.

British commercial interests have already increased in that part of the country both as regards transit trade and cultivation for exportation; and on that account, as well as to provide for the great changes which railway works will bring about, and to give that security which the presence of an intelligent English agent confers, I beg to recommend the establishment of this post. The emoluments should not be less than 250*l.* salary and 100*l.* office allowance a-year; the climate, too, is now so unhealthy that the post could not be held long. I would therefore add, that it would be an advantage to the public service, and also to the officer himself, if it should be understood to be a junior post, as a rule not to be held for more than four years.†

The salary of the Vice-Consulate at Beyrout, 350*l.* a-year, is quite adequate, if it is regarded as a junior post.

In regard to the Cyprus Consulate, which, as being also apart from other Consular arrangements in Turkey, may likewise be dealt with in this Report, I would submit that the post which is now vacant should be given to Mr. Lang, the present Acting-Consul; or, if he is not disposed to accept it, to Mr. Riddell. Both these gentleman are British subjects, and merchants of the highest respectability. There are no great British interests at Cyprus, but the island lies away from other Consulates; British trade is increasing; protection is wanted for British subjects there; and for these reasons, as well as to provide for contingent events, the maintenance of a Consular establishment there is necessary. The present salary of the post is 250*l.* and 50*l.* office allowance. I am of opinion that an office allowance of 150*l.* or 100*l.* a-year, without salary, would be remuneration for the post, adequate alike for public requirements and the services needed of a Consul engaged in commerce; and I would further observe, in passing, with reference to my future Report, that there are other places were similar arrangements might advantageously be made; often British interests require the presence of a Consul or Vice-Consul, though the requirements are not such as to justify a salary on the scale which is necessary when such salary forms the whole source of the Consular Officer's income.‡

The arrangements I have now suggested will, I feel sure, prove advantageous to public interests, and they can, moreover, be carried out without entailing eventually, any additional charge to the Exchequer. There would be a saving of 300*l.* a-year at Damascus, and 150*l.* or 200*l.* at Cyprus; the latter, which can be effected at once, will provide for the proposed increase at Beyrout, and the former for the Vice-Consulate at Alexandretta.

There is another matter which, although it adverts to Turkey generally, I will here advert to so far as it relates to Consular arrangements in Syria, namely, the position of Consular Dragomans. There cannot be a doubt that it would be a vast benefit to the public service generally, and to individual British interests, if British subjects were trained for these appointments. Some additional expense would be incurred, but I feel bound to say that the result would be worth its cost, and I think a scheme would be devised, without difficulty, for carrying out such a system. Moreover, it seems that dragomans, natives of the country, only temporarily employed, who are engaged in

* This arrangement has been sanctioned.

† The Board of Trade considered the salaried post unnecessary, and an unpaid Vice-Consul has since been appointed.

‡ Mr. Lang has been appointed Consul, with 100*l.* a-year office allowance.

political duties, or in pressing the settlement of claims, are necessarily placed in positions of great difficulty. They cannot avoid giving offence to persons of influence. Besides, they are always underpaid and often unpaid. It is said that it is a general custom of all such dragomans to undertake the settlement of claims other than those which they officially support, on their own private account, receiving half or more of the amount recovered. In the existing state of judicial administration in many places this may well be so. Mr. Abcarius, the first dragoman of the Consulate-General, has spoken very openly to me on these matters. On occasions when I have availed myself of his services he has shown great ability as an Interpreter; and Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Black, the principal British merchant at Beyrout, Mr. Lang, Acting Consul in Cyprus, and others, have spoken in very high terms of him.

I would recommend that, at all events, the first Dragomans of these Consulates should be taken into direct Government employment and receive their salary from Government instead of from the Consul. With that view I have suggested that on the increase of the office allowance at Beyrout, 100*l.*, a-year should be assigned to the First Dragoman, and deductions equivalent to the salaries which might be assigned to these officers could be made from the present officers' allowances at Damascus and Jerusalem. I am uncertain which of the dragomans at Damascus Captain Burton would recommend for the post, but at Jerusalem Mr. Salami, an efficient public servant is well deserving of the appointment.

As a condition attached to such appointments these dragomans would require permanent protection. When their active services ceased they would be entitled to pensions, and would require protection to be extended to them, as it is now granted to two old, though unpaid, public servants in Syria, Dr. Meshaka at Damascus, and Mr. Tabbett at Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. KENNEDY.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 11. Commercial.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship Mr. Kennedy's Report upon the Consular establishment in Syria, and, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I will accompany it with such remarks as his recommendations seem to call for.

The first of them has reference to the Consular establishment of Damascus, which he proposes to reduce to a lower scale than that upon which it is at present.

I am not aware of any reason which makes it necessary to keep up a first-class Consulate within such a short distance of the Consulate-General, and it may be open to question whether the political reasons adverted to by Mr. Kennedy are sufficiently strong to prevent the reduction being carried even further than he suggests.

I do not as a rule think it necessary that the rank to be given to our Consular Agents should depend upon that of the Agents of other countries; but, in the peculiar position of Damascus, it would not be desirable that ours should hold a lower rank than those of France and Russia, and if those Powers were to maintain Vice-Consulates there, we might be justified to do the same.

I certainly concur in Mr. Kennedy's remarks upon the insufficiency of the office allowance for the Consulate-General of Beyrout, and hope the increase which he proposes may meet the most favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The establishment of a paid Vice-Consulate at Alexandretta is much called for in the interest of British trade, which will, moreover, greatly increase whenever the works of the Euphrates Valley or Tigris Valley Railway may commence, and I believe we may confidently expect that this will take place at no very remote date.

The work for a British Consul at Cyprus is so small that it might probably be satisfactorily performed in the manner suggested by Mr. Kennedy at a saving of half its previous cost, although the principle of intrusting the Consular duties to a merchant of the place is one of doubtful expediency.

With regard to Jaffa I would state that the Porte's refusal to consent to the nomination of Mr. Kayat may be looked upon as final, not on account of any feeling against that gentleman, but as a matter of principle, from which they are determined not to depart, and the alternative suggested by Mr. Kennedy appears the best arrangement that could be made.

His suggestion that Her Majesty's Consulate at Aleppo should be directed to send to the Consul-General at Beyrout copies of all his political despatches, and especially those relating to Arab affairs, deserves, I think, to be acted upon, for it is certainly desirable that the Consul-General in Syria should be kept fully informed upon everything of political interest that passes among the Arabs.

Mr. Kennedy has brought under your Lordship's consideration the position of the First Dragoman of the Consulate-General of Beyrout, and has recommended his receiving a direct appointment and salary out of the proposed increased office allowance, and an assurance that British protection should be continued to him after his retirement.

The first part of the proposal appears very proper, but I would submit that the promise of indefinite protection would be undesirable.

Independent of the objection to an extension of the vicious system of protections, which I have been striving to keep within the narrowest bounds, it is to be remembered that Turkish subjects are recognized as dragomans to the Consulates on the distinct understanding that our protection of them ceases with their functions, and the Ottoman authorities would have an undoubted right to refuse to recognize certificates of protection at variance with that arrangement.

The regulations of the Porte on this matter, which have long been acquiesced in by the foreign Representatives, had probably not been made known to Mr. Kennedy when he brought forward the suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 26. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, April 10, 1871.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 25, Confidential, of the 15th of January, and No. 14, Confidential, Commercial, of the 18th of February, I transmit herewith copies of two despatches from Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha relative to Captain Burton's proceedings at Damascus, and requesting his recall.*

I should be glad to receive from your Lordship a further Report on this matter, and to have your opinion in regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 41. Commercial.)

Constantinople, April 22, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 26 of the 10th instant, asking for my opinion in reference to a complaint of the Porte of the proceedings of Captain Burton at Damascus, and to their request for his recall.

Your Lordship is aware that for some time past I have not been satisfied with the manner in which Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus has been conducted, Captain Burton not having succeeded in giving greater satisfaction to the British subjects—whether Christian missionaries or protected Jews—than to the Ottoman authorities, and I cannot withhold the opinion that he is not well suited to the post which he occupies.

The complaint made by the Porte of his habit of spreading alarming news of impending massacres agrees with information which reached me through other independent channels, but neither that, nor the alleged frequency of his absence from his post, would of themselves suffice to warrant the recall of a British Consul. I consider, however, that his presence tends to unsettle the public mind at Damascus, and to keep alive a sentiment of insecurity, which may at any time become a source of danger, and that it would be very desirable that he should be removed whenever an opportunity for it might offer.

* Nos. 17 and 19.

As your Lordship has already decided to reduce the scale of the Consulate at Damascus, it might for the present be sufficient, in reply to the representation of the Porte, to inform them that a change will shortly be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 52. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, May 25, 1871.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 41 of the 22nd ultimo, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I will endeavour to make an arrangement for transferring Captain Burton from his present post at Damascus to some other Consulate, and your Excellency is at liberty to inform the Porte of my intention in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 52. Commercial.)

Constantinople, May 22, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Report from Mr. Pisani, communicating to me, by Aali Pasha's desire, a telegram from the Governor-General of Syria, informing him of an affray which had taken place at Nazareth on St. George's Day, between some Greeks and the servants of Captain Burton, who are represented to have fired upon the people.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Consul Moore for any particulars he may be able to procure of the occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Mr. Pisani to Sir H. Elliot.

Pera, May 20, 1871.

Sir,

AALI PASHA desired me to transmit, for your Excellency's information and consideration, the inclosed copy of a telegram he had just received from the Governor-General of Syria, giving a summary account of an occurrence which took place at Nazareth.

Mr. Burton, says Raschid Pasha, according to his wandering habits, went to Nazareth and encamped near the Greek Church. On St. George's Day, the Greek boys having assembled in the front of the church, an affray ensued between them and some of Mr. Burton's servants, in which that gentleman took an active part, and begun to fire at them. On hearing the report of fire-arms, the crowd which was at church came out, and the scuffle took rather serious proportions.

Some of the Consul's people have been slightly wounded, and Mr. Burton was struck in the arm by a stone. It is very lucky, observes the Pasha, that the Greeks abstained from using any arms, otherwise the matter would have been aggravated. Mr. Burton has caused some of the Greeks mixed up in the quarrel to be apprehended and tied up, for the purpose of sending them to Damascus.

The occurrence, states the telegram, is mainly to be ascribed to the Consul, whose imprudence in firing on the people gave the disturbance a serious character. The Pasha concludes his telegram by saying that he had instituted an inquiry, and that he would not fail to acquaint the Porte with the result of the investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *May* 4, 1871 (M.S. 1287).

MR. BURTON, the British Consul at Damascus, who is generally in the habit of wandering about the country, was lately at Nazareth living in his tent, which was pitched near the Greek Church. On St. George's Day a quarrel arose between his servants and a number of Greek lads who were standing near the church. Mr. Burton took an active part in the quarrel by firing on the Greeks, who had now come out of church, which made matters worse. Although several of the Consul's people received slight wounds he himself was merely struck by a stone in the arm.

The Greeks did not retaliate by using arms of any kind, and consequently the occurrence did not assume a more serious turn.

The Consul demands that a great number of the Greeks, whom he has taken up and bound with cords, should be sent up to Damascus. These people, on the other hand, declare that they are not to blame, and that it was in consequence of the Consul's having fired upon them that the quarrel became serious.

The matter is now being inquired into. I am not able to say more on the subject for the present, but shall not fail to communicate to your Highness later the final result of the investigation.

No. 26.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 8.)

Constantinople, le 24 *Mai*, 1871.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR sa dépêche responsive en date du 15 Mars, votre Excellence m'a informé que Lord Granville s'est montré disposé à se rendre au désir du Gouvernement Impérial, en relevant M. Burton de ses fonctions Consulaires à Damas.

Nous remercions sa Seigneurie de ses dispositions bienveillantes; mais il nous tarde de voir le résultat définitif de nos démarches. En effet, la conduite de M. Burton devient de plus en plus intolérable. Un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Syrie nous signale un nouvel incident provoqué par cet Agent, et qui a pris des proportions très graves.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-joint, une copie de ce télégramme et vous prie d'en entretenir Lord Granville et de lui démontrer l'impossibilité de maintenir M. Burton plus longtemps à Damas.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) AALI.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Traduction du Turc.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le* $\frac{4}{16}$ *Mai*, 1871.

LE Consul Britannique à Damas, M. Burton, qui aime à se livrer à de continuelles pérégrinations, s'était rendu, il y a quelques jours, à Nassara et s'était installé sous une tente dans le voisinage d'une église Grecque. C'était le jour de la fête de St. Georges, et un rassemblement d'enfants encombrait les abords de l'église. Une querelle s'éleva entre ces enfants et les domestiques du Consul. Ce dernier s'étant armé pour prendre part à la querelle, et s'étant servi de ses armes contre les Grecs, ceux qui se trouvaient dans l'intérieur de l'église en sortirent et se mêlèrent à la rixe, qui acquit des proportions considérables, et dans laquelle quelques uns des domestiques furent légèrement blessés. Le Consul lui-même fut atteint au bras par une pierre; mais personne ne l'avait attaqué avec des armes, ce qui atténue de beaucoup le caractère de l'attaque dirigée contre sa personne.

Néanmoins, le Consul exigea qu'on fît conduire à Damas plusieurs personnes, les mains liées; mais les Chrétiens protestaient de leur innocence, en soutenant que le Consul les avait provoqués, dans un jour de fête, en tirant à balles sur eux.

J'ai commencé l'instruction de cette affaire, et je ferai parvenir à votre Altesse le résultat détaillé de mes informations dès que je l'aurai obtenu.

No. 26 A.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

16, *Bruton Street, June* 9, 1871.

My dear Ambassador,

I FIND that an account has been received of the affray at Nazareth.

I can take no step till I have received Captain Burton's Report of what has passed.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26 B.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 2.)

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, under short private leave granted by your Lordship, I left my post on March 27, 1871, and returned to it on April 28, 1871.

By the desire of Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, I passed through the towns of Tiberias and Safet, where the large community of Jews under British protection received me with much cordiality. They are about to address a Petition to your Lordship, praying that they may be transferred from under the Consulate-General of Beyrout to the Consulate of Damascus; and I promised them that I would report to your Lordship how much this change, enabling them to apply directly to the head-quarters of the Governor-General of Syria, would benefit their material interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 27.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 3.)

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 5.)

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following circumstances:—

On Thursday, the 6th of April, 1871, the Protestant Cemetery at Damascus was once more broken into and violated. Scarcely a year has passed without this outrage being renewed; and on the present occasion justice is completely withheld. The tomb of the Countess Harley Teleki was destroyed, and a number of grave-stones removed from the place. After some investigations on the part of this Consulate, thirteen of the stones were recovered. Three of them were deposited in a mosque by Talib-el-Kayyal, a Moslem ruffian of the Shaghur. He was absolved by the Majlis Tamiyiz el Suda, upon the plea that he found the stones being carried about by children. The latter denied the whole of the story. The other ten stones were found in the possession of Jirges Hajjar, a Greek Catholic. He asserted that he had bought them at under price from a Moslem, Abd-el-Razzak el Musriyyeh. The latter was arrested, and he accused Mustafa Laham, who succeeded in evading justice.

Abd-el-Razzak was tried in the presence of a Consular Dragoman, and was condemned to thirty days' imprisonment, in the absence of the Dragoman, but was presently released. In fact, it is hopeless to expect justice from a Tribunal constituted as it is at present, when a few Napoleons to the President, and to the Head Clerk, can procure any verdict desired.

The state of the Police Force at Damascus is causing considerable alarm. The active and energetic officer, Ismail Agha, died about the end of March. His subaltern, Serur Agha, has been virtually banished to the Hauran. The commanding officer, Meer Alai Mustafa Beg, whose bigotry and hatred of Christians make him the terror of all criminals, save Moslems, is supported by Abdullah Agha, a negro, who takes an active part in procuring the conversion of even women and children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 65. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 5, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Noel Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, in answer to a telegram by which I had directed him to give me any particulars in his power respecting the late affray at Nazareth between Captain Burton's people and the Greeks.

Although I have despatches and letters from Captain Burton himself up to the 20th ultimo, they do not contain even an allusion to the occurrence in question, and I have, consequently, telegraphed to him to report upon it immediately by telegraph and by post.

In the meantime, the Porte has received from the Governor-General of Syria the telegram, of which a translation is transmitted herewith, stating that the Greeks contend that the affray was entirely provoked by Captain Burton, against whom the Bishop of Nazareth was preferring a formal complaint, but who is, on the other hand, insisting on the punishment of the Greeks.

Under these circumstances the Governor-General suggests that either Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, or a member of Her Majesty's Embassy here, should be instructed to proceed to Damascus forthwith to institute an inquiry into the occurrences in concert with him.

I told Aali Pasha this morning that I could not advise Her Majesty's Government to consent to the course proposed by Rachid Pasha, which would almost amount to the trial of one of Her Majesty's Consuls before a tribunal of which the Governor of his district was a member.

The difficulty of the case lay in the fact of the Consul having made a complaint against a number of Greeks for a proceeding, which he was formally accused by the Greek Bishop of having himself brought about; but it appeared to me that the most advisable mode of proceeding would be for the authorities of Damascus to go regularly into Captain Burton's accusations against his assailants, who would have the opportunity of telling their own story, and if they produced evidence of a nature to inculpate Captain Burton, the Porte could then make a representation on the subject to Her Majesty's Government, who would certainly not refuse to take such steps in reference to it as the case might seem to call for.

Aali Pasha concurred in this view of the case; and the course I suggested will, I believe, be followed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Jerusalem, May 25, 1871.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram, I have the honour to report the following particulars of the recent affray at Nazareth between some Greeks of that town and Captain Burton's attendants, and which are derived from the Greek Bishop of Tabor, who passed through Nazareth on the next day on his way to Jerusalem, and from two English travellers, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Gill, who were there at the time.

According to the Bishop's account, the conflict began by one of the servants driving away an Abyssinian mendicant from Captain Burton's encampment early in the morning of St. George's Day. The beggar persisting in remaining, force was used. Just then the Greeks issued from their church, close to which the camp had been pitched. They abused the servant for his treatment of the Abyssinian, saying, "You not only refuse to give him anything, but strike him as well." This led to words and ultimately to blows, the other servants and more Greeks coming up. Stones appear to have been the missiles used. Captain Burton and his party, consisting of Mrs. Burton and Mr. Drake, came out to the assistance of their attendants, and Captain Burton was badly hurt by two stones which hit him on the arm and lower part of the leg.

Hearing of the affray, the above-mentioned Englishmen, with others who were likewise present, hastened, armed, to the assistance of Captain Burton. They, however, arrived when the contest had nearly subsided. Two or three shots had been fired, fortunately without hitting any one, but by whom these gentlemen could not say. They saw one of the servants carried into the camp in a state of insensibility, having received about thirty wounds from stones, his head streaming with blood. Messrs. Johnson and Gill did not know the particulars of the origin of the affray, nor what part the Governor of Nazareth took in the matter.

I have since heard that Captain Burton left Nazareth, taking with him twelve of the assailants in irons for trial at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. T. MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Rashid Pashia to Aali Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *May 19 (n.s.), 1287.*

THE Greeks maintain that it was the British Consul of Damascus who provoked and brought about the quarrel lately reported to your Highness by telegraph. They, therefore, now claim redress for his having fired upon the congregation, which had come out of the church at Nazareth, as well as for his having entered the church on horseback during prayers, when he took to smashing the lamps (with his riding-whip), and attempting to break open one of the inner doors.

The Greek Bishop of Nazareth is to come to Damascus, in order to urge the trial of the case; and whilst matters stand thus, Captain Burton proposes to demand that a large number of Greeks (who are some of the very plaintiffs in this affair) should be made to undergo both correctional and pecuniary punishment—a demand, however, which will have to be rejected before the case is tried, and the two parties concerned duly confronted.

Under these circumstances, and considering, moreover, the delicate nature and importance of the affair, which cannot properly come under the cognizance of the local Medgliss, I beg to submit to your Highness that it would be necessary either that the British Embassy should send immediately one of its members to Damascus, or that the British Consul-General of Beyrout should be sent instead, duly authorized to co-operate with me in bringing about the trial and investigation of this matter.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

No. 7. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 14, 1871.*

I BROUGHT to the knowledge of the Porte the violation of the Protestant cemetery at Damascus, reported in Mr. Consul Burton's despatch No. 5 of the 20th ultimo, and requested that efficient measures might be taken for its future protection.

Instructions have been consequently sent to Rashid Pasha directing him as far as possible to restore what had been destroyed, and to take proper steps for preventing the recurrence of similar acts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, June 14, 1871.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to call upon you to furnish, by the earliest opportunity, a full explanation of the circumstances adverted to in the telegram from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha, of which a copy is herewith inclosed,* communicated to his Lordship by the Ottoman Ambassador at this Court.

I am at the same time to acquaint you that serious complaints in regard to your general proceedings have been made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Government; and I am to add that his Lordship wishes that, from the time of receipt of this despatch until further instructions reach you, you should not quit the seat of your Consulate, the City of Damascus.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 31.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 20.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 20 *Juin*, 1871.

REÇU rapports Nos. 87 et 91.

Nous remercions Lord Granville de sa décision de relever définitivement M. Burton de ses fonctions Consulaires à Damas.

D'après nos dernières nouvelles de Syrie, cet Agent a adressé tout récemment une circulaire aux Cheikhs Druses de Khoran pour leur annoncer son voyage dans quelques localités de Syrie, et les inviter à une entrevue.

Cette attitude de M. Burton ne peut être toléré plus longtemps. Veuillez faire un nouvel appel aux sentiments d'équité de Lord Granville pour obtenir le rappel immédiat de cet Agent.

No. 32.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, June 23, 1871.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 14th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to observe to you that although despatches have been received from you dated since your return to Damascus, no allusion is contained in them to the transactions at Nazareth; and I am further to call upon you for an immediate explanation why you have not reported this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 33.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 73. Commercial.)

Therapia, June 16, 1871.

My Lord,

HAVING received despatches from Captain Burton up to the 20th ultimo, without any mention of the affray at Nazareth, I addressed him the despatch of which a copy is herewith inclosed, calling upon him to explain how it was that such a circumstance as a disturbance, in which one of Her Majesty's Consuls had been personally engaged, had not at once been reported to me. And I likewise asked for explanations with respect to another incident which will not improbably be brought forward.

* No. 26.

I have since received from Captain Burton the inclosed telegram, which does not give many details, but states that the authorities of Damascus are now disposed to settle the affair amicably.

I communicated this telegram to Aali Pasha at the same time as your Lordship's despatch, Commercial No. 52, saying that you would endeavour to remove Captain Burton to another post, and I suggested that, under those circumstances, an amicable settlement was what is most desirable.

Aali Pasha showed himself disposed to prescribe this course on the authorities, although he said that they had by no means intimated to him a desire to withdraw their complaints against the Consul.

His Highness expressed his acknowledgments to your Lordship for the despatch which I had communicated to him, accompanied by the hope that Captain Burton's transfer may be effected at an early date, for the despatches received that day from represent his proceedings as compromising the tranquillity of the province.

Translations of these despatches, and of the letter of the Bishop of Nazareth, will be prepared for communication to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Burton.

Constantinople, June 6, 1871.

Sir,

I YESTERDAY received your despatches of the 20th ultimo, and your private letter of the same date.

I had been expecting from you an account of the affray which had been reported to me as having taken place at Nazareth on St. George's Day, in which some of your party were said to have used their fire-arms, and yourself to have been injured by stones.

As the accounts received by the Porte represent the occurrence as having been provoked by your party, the Bishop of Nazareth having made a formal complaint of your own proceedings, it was very desirable that I should be in possession of your version of it; and I must request you to explain, without further delay, how it was that such a circumstance as an affray in which one of Her Majesty's Consuls was personally engaged, should not have been at once reported to me.

You will inform me whether there is any ground for the assertion of your followers having used their fire-arms; and likewise in what manner and by whom the persons accused of the assault were brought to Damascus.

It is asserted that on a previous occasion, in the month of October or November last, a person in your employment made use of his gun or pistol without justifiable cause; and as this may probably be appealed to as an evidence of the conduct and bearing of your people, you will report to me upon that circumstance likewise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

Beyrout, June 8, 1871.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of 5th June received only 7th June. My servants unprovokedly attacked by Greek orthodox at Nazareth on account of a slight quarrel with an insolent negro. Three of mine severely hurt. Have applied to local authorities for redress. Great opposition, at first, from Greek clergy, who now own themselves mistaken, and wish for an amicable settlement. Details by post.

No. 34.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Beyrout, June 16, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte on the subject of a complaint brought against Captain Burton by Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Beyrout, June 16, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, which I have received from his Excellency the Wali of Syria, complaining of the proceedings of Captain Burton in his recent visit to the Hauran and Jebel Druse.

As Rashid Pasha expresses a hope that, like himself, I shall disapprove of this journey, I can only refer the matter to your Excellency, as, beyond a private letter, dated the 23rd ultimo (received by me on the 25th), in which Captain Burton announces his intention of starting for the Jebel Druse on the following day, I had no knowledge of his intentions or the objects of the journey, which may, perhaps, have been undertaken in pursuance of instructions.

Without entering into the arguments of Rashid Pasha, I cannot refrain from expressing an opinion that it was injudicious on the part of Captain Burton to have gone to the Jebel Druse without having at least informed the local authorities of his intention; as a similar journey, undertaken, as it were, secretly, would bear the interpretation, in the eyes of the populations, that Her Majesty's Government had some line of policy in view that differed from that of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Rashid Pasha to Consul-General Eldridge.

Damas, le 14 Juin, 1871.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-incluse copie de la lettre que j'ai cru devoir adresser à M. Burton lors de son retour du Hauran.

J'aime à penser que vous n'approuverez pas comme moi un voyage entrepris et exécuté dans de pareilles circonstances.

Je profite, &c.

(Signé) RACHID.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Rashid Pasha to Consul Burton.

Damas, le 7 Juin, 1871.

M. le Consul,

LORS de mon arrivée en Syrie la tranquillité était loin de régner comme aujourd'hui dans le Hauran. Le pillage, le vol, les déprédations étaient à l'ordre du jour. Les auteurs de ces méfaits—ai-je besoin de les nommer?—étaient les Bédouins et les Druses. Leurs chefs méconnaissaient l'autorité du Vali, ne venaient jamais à Damas qu'avec du Raï-Amm et d'autres précautions qui indiquaient clairement combien leur méfiance était grande. Rendre au pays le calme et la sécurité dont il était privés, convaincre les Druses des intentions bienveillantes du Gouvernement Impérial, les forcer au besoin à reconnaître l'autorité, les habituer au paiement des impôts, prendre aux Bédouins des garanties pour assurer la non-violation de leurs

promesses, tel est le but vers lequel ont tendu tous mes efforts. Ce n'est pas à moi à dire si j'ai réussi, mais Damas vit un jour avec surprise Ismaël Atrache accepter l'hospitalité que je lui avais offerte. Depuis lors les chefs Druses ont marché sur les traces de leur vieux chefs, et sans aucune formalité et à notre premier appel ils se sont toujours empressés de se rendre à Damas. Nos rapports avec eux n'ont pas cessé d'être sur un pied convenable.

Le moyen auquel j'ai eu recours pour obtenir cet heureux résultat, ce fut d'empêcher les Druses d'entretenir toute espèce de rapports avec les agents étrangers, et notamment avec le Consulat d'Angleterre. Lors des évènements de 1860, la responsabilité qui pesait sur les Druses excita probablement la pitié et l'indulgence du Commissaire Anglais. Les Druses interprétèrent tout autrement les sentiments de M. le Commissaire, et s'imaginèrent dans leur simplicité que l'Angleterre les couvrait d'une protection tout spéciale. De là ils ont constamment étudié les faits et les gestes des Consuls Anglais à Damas, et leur ont attribué une signification qu'ils n'avaient certes pas. C'est ce que je les comprendre à M. Rogers, qui, abondant dans mon sens et dans mes idées, cessa tout rapport avec les Druses, tandis que nos relations avec eux devenaient de jour en jour plus aisées.

Dans un pareil état de choses je ne vous dissimulerai pas que j'ai été vivement surpris de voir que vous avez entrepris un voyage dans le Djebel Druse, et que vous vous y êtes fait annoncer par une lettre officielle. J'ignore le but que vous vous êtes proposé dans cette excursion, mais certes les Druses et le Hauran y ont aperçu un tout autre que celui que vous aviez en vue. J'ai déjà dit quelle opinion erronée ont les Druses vis-à-vis des dispositions de l'Angleterre à leur égard. Bien différent eut été votre voyage, M. le Consul, si vous aviez bien voulu me le faire connaître d'avance, et si les Druses et le Hauran vous avaient vu arriver accompagné d'un officier du Gouvernement.

Tout récemment les Druses, témoins impuissants de la violation de leur Ledja, qu'ils croyaient impénétrable, ont vu s'évanouir jusqu'à la dernière trace de leur prestige. Il eut été politique de les laisser sous cette impression de découragement, et c'est dans une circonstance pareille que vous faites un voyage au milieu d'eux.

On me rapporte que vous avez été chez les Druses pour les réconcilier. Si le fait est vrai c'est une démarche très grave et il aurait fallu pressentir à ce sujet les dispositions du Vilayet.

Ainsi, M. le Consul, quel que soit le but d'un voyage entrepris à l'insu de l'autorité et accompli dans les circonstances que je viens de rappeler, au milieu d'une peuplade demi-soumise, je ne puis que ne point l'approuver et je crois devoir même vous exprimer à ce sujet les regrets que j'en ai éprouvés.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) RACHID.

No. 34*.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 72. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, July 1, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to express to the Porte the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the steps taken, as reported in your despatch No. 70, Commercial, of the 14th ultimo, in regard to the violation of the Protestant cemetery at Damascus.

I have also to express my approval of the course pursued by your Excellency in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 78. Commercial.)

Therapia, June 26, 1871.

My Lord,

SINCE forwarding to your Lordship my despatch No. 73 of the 16th instant, I have received from Captain Burton the enclosed despatch relative to the affray at Nazareth, but the Greek Bishop's letter has not yet been sent to me.

I likewise inclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, who was travelling with him at the time.

These reports put, as was to be expected, a very different colour upon the occurrence from that which had first been given to it on the part of the Greeks.

I have communicated Mr. Drake's letter to the Porte, which is not yet in possession of the reports of the Governor of the result of his investigations into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S., *June* 20.—The Bishop's letter having reached me since writing the above, is herewith transmitted in translation.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 7.)
Damascus, June 7, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's telegram of June 5th, which arrived only to-day (June 7). I had heard privately of it from one of the officials of the Serai some hours before it reached me.

As regards the affair at Nazareth, the best explanation which I can send is contained in the Inclosures Nos. 2, 3, and 4. The first is the despatch addressed by me to his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria. The second is the account of the assault forwarded to me by my fellow-traveller, Mr. C. F. Drake, who here represents the Palestine Exploration Fund. The third is the evidence given before the Medgliss by an English clergyman (Rev. Mr. Taylor), and by three other gentlemen who were in Nazareth at the time.

I may also report that the Greek Bishop of Nazareth has confessed that he was compelled by his co-religionists to act as he did; that he was ordered not to return to his see without settling the affair in their favour, and that he is ready to declare that those who committed the outrage were guilty, and want the affair to be settled amicably. I have the honour to translate the telegram sent by the Rev. Seraïn, Bishop (Greek Orthodox) of Damascus to Monsignor Yurothass, Patriarch of Antioch, now at Tripoli.

"We have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Damascus all details concerning the Nazareth affair; we are satisfied with his account, and we will send details by post."

Finally, as regards the claim of 300 napoleons to be distributed amongst my wounded servants and muleteers, I have, at the instance of the Reverend the Greek Bishop of Damascus, reduced it to 50 napoleons, which will be claimed after three months, and only in case of bad conduct being repeated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Consul Burton to Rashid Pasha.

Damas, le 20 Mai, 1871.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits suivants:—

Le Vendredi, 5 Mai, 1871 (Fête de Saint-Georges), j'étais campé à Nazareth, endroit célèbre depuis bien des années par l'inhospitalité et le mauvais traitement des voyageurs. Il paraît que le publique peu respectable était prévenu contre moi, parce que j'empêchai l'Evêque Grec, Monseigneur Hippon, de saisir un terrain à Tiberias contenant une synagogue Juive. Un Copte attaché au couvent Grec de l'Annonciation se planta devant nos tentes et se moqua de nos gens. On commença à l'éloigner, et il se vengea en nous menaçant avec une pierre, et en se servant du langage qui paraît propre à Nazareth. Peu-à-peu une rixe s'engagea. Enfin, entendant des cris derrière le mur du couvent, M. T. Drake, mon compagnon de voyage, et moi, nous courumes pour calmer l'affaire. Nous y fumes sans armes, et nous trouvames une foule de Grecs. Enfin toute la congrégation de l'église, qui assomaient nos gens à coup de pierres, qui tombaient comme la pluie. Le nommé Samán el Asfar attaqua à l'instant M. Drake, et sans un coup de revolver tiré dans l'air par un de nos domestiques une fatalité aurait pu résulter. Le nommé Yusuf Moomar se rua sur moi. Je pris le revolver, et tirant un coup dans l'air je le fis retirer avec ses acolytes, mais pas avant d'avoir reçu trois coups de pierre. Le total de nos blessés se porte à sept personnes, dont deux étaient très-gravements atteints. Un de nos domestiques eût une hémoragie intérieure qui mit sa vie en danger.

Après les susnommés, les criminels les plus coupables sont les suivants:—

1. Daaud Soleyman, qui encouragea les assaillants, en disant: "Izbohn hum ana hati diyat hum" ("Tuez-les, je paierai le prix de leur sang").
2. Yusuf el Muagehir, barbe blanche, qui cria—quand on lui dit C'est le Consul Anglais de Damas que vous assommez—"Wa in kan" ("Assommez-le quand même"). A ces quatre j'ajouterai les neuf suivants:—
1. George Dile.
2. Elias Varvar et son père.
3. George Varvar.
4. Phat Saeran.
5. Halil Zerzina.
6. George Azzam.
7. Halil Shenanet.
8. George Soleyman, et
2. Yusuf ibn Scalefet, qui parvient à s'évader.

Votre Excellence aura lu le procès-verbal qui se fit à Nazareth. Je la prie de sommer à Damas les treize personnes dont les noms ont été cités, et de les emporter avec mes témoins.

J'ai aussi l'honneur de vous représenter les bons offices que j'ai reçus de la part de Khurshid Effendi, Caimacam de Nazareth, du Binbashi de la police, Kuwat Aga, et du Moufetish de St. Jean d'Acre, M. Elias Dublane.

Je ne saurai terminer mon rapport sans démontrer à votre Excellence l'état actuel de Nazareth et de son voisinage. La police est si faible que les coupables ne peuvent se punir. Un Juif ne saurait traverser le bazar sans être outragé et les sujets du Sultan ne peuvent habiter Nazareth. Il y a un an on assomma le maître d'école Protestant de Jafa, et le missionnaire Protestant, M. Zeller, a subi des injures sans nombre. On vola pendant l'année dernière un voyageur Anglais, le Rév. S. Douglas. Deux personnes nous ont cherché querelle à Ayn Don. A Tahun Tabighel on me menaça d'un coup de feu ("kavass kun") parceque je traversai le coin d'un champ qui n'avait ni haie ni mur. A Tiberias on a frappé Madame Zelmina Fuchs, et le protégé Anglais Zalmda Sampten. Peut-être votre Excellence jugera bien de faire venir à Damas les procès-verbaux de Tiberias et de Saffet.

La raison de ces outrages est simplement la faiblesse de la police. Avec une addition de 150 hommes distribués entre Nazareth, Safharah Ayn Don Zerin et Hayn, les Caimacams seraient plus respectés et on n'assommerait plus les voyageurs. Sans ce moyen les circonstances les plus regrettables peuvent arriver à chaque instant, surtout dans l'état d'excitation abnormal actuellement existante partout en Syrie parmi les nations Latines et Grecques.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RICHARD F. BURTON.

P.S.—J'ai l'honneur, Excellence, de vous soumettre ma demande d'une amende pour les blessés, que je fixerai à 300 napoleons et qui sera payée par la congrégation Grecque de Nazareth. Un des notables de l'endroit m'a envoyé l'offre d'une somme plus considérable pour abandon de justice et pour la gratification de mes gens. J'ai jugé convenable de laisser l'affaire dans les mains de votre Excellence.

R. F. B.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Declaration of Mr. Drake.

ON May 5, 1871, Captain Burton and I were encamped at Nazareth (which is within his jurisdiction), near the Greek Church of the Annunciation.

Early in the morning I happened to be at a short distance from the tents, and hearing an angry voice, I went to see whose it was. I found an Abyssinian boy using violent language to Habib, who was telling him to leave the neighbourhood of the tents.

The Abyssinian continuing his abusive language, and picking up a stone to throw at Habib Mohammed, the cavass went down and began to beat him.

Four or five Greek Christians now set upon Habib and Mohamed, and then the other two servants, Antun and Saba, ran down to help.

A mêlée ensued, which assumed no serious aspect till the Greek Christians ran round to the south side of the church, where they were out of sight of the tents, and where they were reinforced by the congregation from the church.

The servants (four in number), and two makaris, followed them, and very shortly Captain Burton and I heard such a noise that we judged it advisable to go to see what was taking place, as from the tents nothing could be seen. We accordingly ran down with only riding-whips in our hands, but, on sharply turning the corner, found ourselves face to face with some 70 to 100 Greek Christians, who were throwing stones with all their force at Consul's servants, and (immediately that Captain Burton and I appeared) at us.

The first stone thrown at me was a very large one, from the hands of Simâan el Asfar, at a distance of only four or five metres, which narrowly missed my head. At this moment Habibe fired a shot from a revolver into the air. This checked the ruffians for an instant, and we were able to retreat to the south-east corner of the church. Here Captain Burton took the revolver, and fired a shot, as before, into the air. This daunted the mob, and we were able to retire slowly to the tents, though followed by showers of stones. Then, as the mob seemed menacing, we prepared our arms, and requested some English and American travellers, who were encamped close by, to do the same. Seeing these preparations the mob melted away, many returning to the church, where there had been a service (it being the Feast of St. George). At the commencement of the disturbance two of the servants, namely, Habib and Saba, were so much injured that they were unable to move for several days, and the former has continued to spit blood.

Mohamed, the cavass, was severely injured in the ribs, head, and Ginn Antun, the Seis, and two of the Makaris, were also injured.

When Simâan el Asfar had the impertinence to accompany a deputation of Greek Christians to the tents for the purpose of begging Captain Burton to put justice aside, and forego punishing the culprits, I immediately recognized him as the man who had thrown the stone at me, and who was always in the front of the mob, and busiest in throwing stones.

When Yusuf Moammur was brought to the tents I distinctly recognized him as one foremost and busiest of the mob.

This mob was by no means made up of only lads and young men, as some of the Greeks wished to make out, but many old men were there, and those the richest and most influential members of the Greek community; men whose duty should have been to restrain their juniors, and not, as they did, to excite them to acts of extreme violence.

Damascus, May 22, 1871.

(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE,
Representative of the Palestine Exploration Fund in Syria.

Inclosure 4 in No. 35.

Declaration by Mr. Taylor and others respecting Affairs at Nazareth.

LES messieurs soussignés étaient dans la tente à Nazareth le matin le 5 Mai, 1871. Madame Burton les a prié de prendre leurs armes et de venir, parce que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake et les domestiques étaient attaqués par les Grecs orthodoxes. Quand les messieurs sortirent de leur tente ils rencontrèrent le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake, allant chercher un domestique qui était encore entre les mains des Grecs. Le rapport que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake sont entré à l'église avec des armes pour la profaner est un mensonge. Ils sont seulement entrés dans la cour pour chercher le domestique cité. Ces messieurs ont aussi vu les domestiques très sérieusement blessés, et le nommé Saba était examiné. Ils témoignent que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake et les domestiques ont été avec très grande modération, remarquant que [illegible] étaient blessés et que la foule des Grecs était très menaçante et vingt fois plus nombreuse qu'eux. Ces messieurs croient que les douze zaptiés qui sont sous le Caimacam de 7,000 personnes [*sic*], et que c'est une obligation pour le Gouvernement Turc de rendre cet endroit sûr pour les voyageurs, parce que ce n'est pas la première fois

que les voyageurs Européens ont été insultés à Nazareth. Ils croient aussi que si les criminels ne seront pas sévèrement punis, les conséquences seront graves non seulement pour les voyageurs, mais encore pour la sûreté de la paix de la Syrie.

(Signé) D. W. W. TAYLOR, *Clergyman.*
E. W. PARSONS, *Huddersfield.*
FRANK HARNANN.
S. A. NEVILL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 35.

Mr. Drake to Sir H. Elliot.

Your Excellency, *Damascus, June* 8, 1871.

ON my return yesterday from the Eastern Desert I found that most gross and exaggerated misrepresentations had been made to Constantinople with reference to the disturbance at Nazareth, in which Captain Burton's servants were so maltreated. As I was present—travelling with Captain Burton—and saw as much of this riot as any one, I consider it my duty to lay before you a correct statement of the whole affair. You are quite at liberty to make any use of this letter that you please.

I shall first observe that the notice generally in the "Hadikat-el-Akbar," of May $\frac{15}{27}$, 1871, is likely to convey a false impression, and especially the statement that "la foule était si considérable qu'il fut impossible de reconnaître les auteurs de la rixe, ainsi que celui qui avait lancé la pierre au Consul," is a deliberate and intentional lie, as will be seen below. The injuries to the servants were by no means slight: two of them were unable to move for three days, and one continued to spit blood for some time.

The affair commenced early in the morning of May 5, by a Copt lad attempting to enter one of the tents, and refusing to leave when requested to do so by the servants. He then proceeded to use most abusive language, and picked up a stone to throw at one of Captain Burton's men, who then, naturally enough, beat him. During this little fracas, which would of itself have finished here, the Greek Christians (Orthodox) were in the Church of the Annunciation, which was close to the tents; but three or four who, were outside, chose to take the part of the Copt, and attack the Consul's servants (four in number). Two of the Mukaris then joined in, the alarm was given, and the Greeks rushed out of church, and managed to get the servants to the east side of the church inclosure, where they were not in view of the tents. Captain Burton and I, hearing a considerable noise, ran down half-dressed, and on turning the corner of the wall found ourselves suddenly in a perfect storm of stones. One man (Simâan-el-Asfar) threw a large stone at me from a distance of only three or four yards, which narrowly missed my head. Of course I took especial care to remark his face, and when he had the extreme impudence to accompany a deputation of Greeks, who came to Captain Burton to request him not to punish the offenders, I recognized him at a distance of fifty or sixty yards, as he was approaching the tents. Captain Burton also immediately recognized him, as we both did Yusuf Moammur. These two were foremost in the stone-throwing. Several of those now in prison I distinctly saw in the riot. All of these were identified by the servants; but a few, whose identification was rather doubtful, were of course immediately set free.

Luckily during the riot one of the servants had a revolver in his belt, and fired a shot in the air, which checked the mob for a moment. Captain Burton then took the pistol and fired again in the air, and we were just able to retreat to the tents, assailed by showers of stones. Had it not been for Captain Burton's coolness we should, probably, not have escaped with our lives, as the mob was very excited. We then gave the alarm to some English and American travellers, who were camped near; they armed themselves and came out, and the crowd dispersed. Captain Burton and I then went, with pistols in our hands, to the wall-plain Court that surrounds the church in search of the cook, who was not there. He was found fainting, and very severely knocked about. This, probably, gave rise to the ridiculous stories of our having entered the church—which we did not do—and of our having done damage there. The turbulence of the people of Nazareth is well known, and the Greek influence there was so strong that the Kaimakam (who has only twelve zaptiehs under him, four or five of whom are mere lads, with a population of 7,000) was almost helpless. Everything is now being done to get the culprits off. The Bishop of Nazareth has been sent

by his flock with orders to do his utmost, but I hear from the priest Kyrillos (Deacon to the Patriarch here) that he deeply regrets the part he has already taken.

The policy of the Governor-General of Syria, his Excellency Rashid Pasha, has always been to oppose European influence as much as possible; so much so that it is a common saying in Damascus, "The Consuls used to unmake the Wali, now the Wali unmakes the Consuls," and consequently he sides with the Greeks. A firm, independent man, with a thorough knowledge of the country and ways of dealing, like Captain Burton, is of course peculiarly obnoxious to him, and I have no doubt he would be very well pleased to see him removed, in hopes of his successor being easier to use as a tool. This policy of antagonism to European influence must prove very detrimental to Syria, as the reaction which must necessarily ensue will naturally turn too much to the other side. Syria is now in a peculiarly feverish state, and section feeling runs very strong, especially between the Greek and Latin churches, as the former gain as much ground by the growing influence of Russia as the latter have lost by the defeat of France and the occupation of Rome. If this affair is allowed to pass unnoticed, the arrogance of the Greeks will undoubtedly cause a quarrel with the Latins at Nazareth, and should the fire once be lighted, it would, with the present state of feeling, spread over the whole country. At Nazareth, however, Captain Burton took all possible precautions, making Latins, Moslems, and Greeks, conjointly sign a guarantee for the preserving of peace.

Apologizing for the length to which my letter has necessarily run, I remain, &c.

(Signed) C. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

Care of S. Von Haes, Esq., Imperial Ottoman Bank, Beyroud.

Inclosure 6 in No. 35.

The Mitran of Nazareth to the Kaimakam of the Hauran.

Le 10 *Mai*, 1871.

(Traduction.)

COMME il est déjà connu de votre Excellence le Consul Anglais à Damas a amené, poings liés, en cette ville ensemble avec lui, deux des individus qui par suite de l'action intentée dernièrement durant son séjour à Nazareth, c'est-à-dire, sous prétexte que ces hommes auraient subi des mauvais traitements de la part de votre tribu, il avait fait venir à Okia, toujours liés, et cela sans en donner avis ni à moi ni aux Moukhtars et sans recueillir sur les lieux des preuves et renseignements à l'appui de sa réclamation.

Persuadé que le Gouvernement Impérial tient à cœur de sauvegarder et maintenir toujours intacts l'honneur et les droits de votre tribu, de nationalité Ottomane, je me contenterai de soumettre seulement à votre Excellence la conduite inqualifiable qu'on a tenu à votre égard; mais il est de mon devoir de vous exposer les actes injustes commis durant la célébration de la messe, et je prends la liberté de solliciter humblement de votre Excellence de vouloir bien protéger contre toute atteinte et de vous conserver les bienfaits du repos et de la tranquillité dont nous jouissons, grâces à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le 23 Avril dernier, fête de St. Georges, vers le matin, après la célébration de la messe, des détonations de coups de fusil se sont faites entendre du dehors, et une des personnes sorties pour s'enquérir de ce qui se passait voyant que les vexations que le Consul prétend avoir été commises étaient l'effet de certains gens inconnus venus d'une autre localité, c'est-à-dire, que ces individus armés de bâtons et d'armes criblaient de coups un nègre (Habeshi) qui logeait en hâte dans l'église, courut lui porter secours; et cet événement produisit une pénible impression sur ceux qui se trouvaient tant à l'intérieur qu'au dehors de l'église. En outre, à la sortie de la messe, comme le prêtre baptisait selon le rite Chrétien un enfant, le dit Consul, en présence d'un grand nombre de femmes parentes de cet enfant, fit irruption dans l'église accompagné d'autres individus, cassa avec sa canne une lampe, frappa du pied sur un armoire et donna libre cours à des insultes et blasphèmes qu'il en répugne de répéter, et aussi à des propos menaçants tels que, "de même que les Habéshis vous autres aussi vous serez punis par mon Gouvernement." Non content de cela, le dit Consul, sans prétexte que quelques individus avaient pris part à ces désordres, vint pour la seconde fois, et malgré les recherches qu'il fit tant dans la cour que dans les autres parties de l'église, n'ayant découvert personne, afin d'assouvir sa rage, fit arrêter un domestique de l'église et l'envoya en prison.

En apprenant que le dit Consul s'était pour la seconde fois rendu à l'église, je me

suis présenté chez le Caimmeam pour relever combien cette conduite du Consul était injuste et arbitraire, et que de pareilles démarches étaient du ressort de l'autorité locale, et nullement de la compétence du Consul, le priant en même temps de se rendre en personne sur les lieux, accompagné du Naib pour prendre des renseignements précis sur ces événements. A la suite de cette demande quatre membres du Conseil furent envoyés, mais les recherches qu'ils firent ensemble avec le dit Consul, qui se trouvait aussi là, sont restés infructueuses. Pour complément à cette conduite aussi injuste qu'illégale du Consul pendant que l'affaire avait été soumise au Caimacam, mon fils Henri Salih a été mandé et sous prétexte d'avoir reçu d'Okia une lettre l'invitant à tenir prêts les témoins, il en a été rendu responsable.

Tandis que non seulement il n'est pas vrai qu'une pareille lettre soit arrivée, mais en admettant même qu'elle le fût, on ne saurait d'aucune manière en faire un crime. Et si la teneur de cette lettre est en contradiction avec la loi et l'usage, pourquoi mon fils n'a-t-il pas été arrêté? Et de plus de quel droit le Consul ouvre et prend connaissance d'une lettre à l'adresse d'un autre, et surtout d'un membre du clergé?

C'est seulement dans la crainte de retarder l'enquête en train d'être faite sur cette affaire et de créer des inconvénients que j'ai malgré moi gardé le silence sur de pareils procédés. Je me suis contenté de me rendre à Okia pour y attendre l'arrivée de votre Excellence et l'issu de cette affaire.

A en juger par les apparences le but du dit Consul n'est autre que d'insulter la religion orthodoxe, ma personne, nos temples, et toute notre communauté religieuse; puisqu'en cas de besoin le Gouvernement n'avait qu'à me demander celui des membres de notre communauté qu'il a désiré interroger, et je me serai empressé d'exécuter immédiatement cet ordre. Tandis que non seulement moi et toute notre communauté, mais aussi tout notre tribu, se trouvent aujourd'hui profondément blessés des procédés indignes et sans précédents contre nos églises et notre communauté. Surtout lorsque d'après les lois et réglements en vigueur partout dans les vastes provinces de l'Empire, comme aussi dans tous les pays de l'Europe, de pareils actes ne sauraient être tolérés, que chacun jouit d'une pleine liberté et tranquillité dans l'accomplissement de ses devoirs religieux, et qu'en Angleterre même, d'où depend le dit Consul, le plus grand soin est apporté à ce sujet, pourquoi donc notre nation doit-elle, sous le règne glorieux de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, être en butte aux vexations et aux insultes de la part d'une personne revêtue d'un caractère officiel? Et quand même les vexations dont, selon le Consul, ses hommes auraient été l'objet eussent été commises par les dits Habéshis ou par d'autres, le Consul a-t-il le droit d'entrer dans l'église à main armée, d'insulter de la sorte, et surtout d'assouvir sa vengeance lui-même? C'est avec le plus vif regret que je déclare à votre Excellence que cet état de choses aussi pénible que contraire à la justice et à l'équité porte une grave atteinte à l'honneur de notre tribu, est de nature à faire perdre la confiance aux personnes qui venaient séjourner à Nasra, en pélerinage, et que tout le monde craint le renouvellement de pareils procédés.

Je prie en conséquence votre Excellence de vouloir bien transmettre la présente lettre au Gouvernement Impérial, à la haute bienveillance et à la puissante protection duquel nous avons recours, afin que, prenant en sérieuse considération les faits susmentionnés, il soit avisé aux moyens de réparer notre honneur blessé, de nous rendre votre tranquillité perdue, et de nous préserver à l'avenir des semblables procédés.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 70.)

Therapia, June 26, 1871.

My Lord,

IN connection with the complaints made by the Porte of the proceeding of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, irrespective of the affray at Nazareth, I have the honour to inclose the translation of a letter which he was represented to me as having written to the Arab Chiefs, inviting them to meet him at a village in the Hauran.

I telegraphed to Captain Burton to ascertain whether the letter was authentic; and I inclose herewith a copy of his telegraphic reply.

In the meantime I had received from him a despatch, of which a copy is also inclosed, in which Captain Burton, after alluding to the unsatisfactory state of northern Syria, mentions having invited the Chiefs to meet him, and reports the salutary effects of his interview with them.

Your Lordship's intention, already notified to the Porte, of finding an opportunity of transferring Captain Burton to another post, makes it unnecessary to examine at any

length the particulars of the complaints which have been made to me against him; but their general tenor was his determination to meddle with the internal administration of the district, the Governor of which wrote to the Porte, that if Her Majesty's Consul were to assume the virtual position of Governor, it would be impossible for himself to continue to direct the Government of the province. A letter,* of which I have forwarded a copy to your Lordship elsewhere, touching the affair at Nazareth, while eloquently advocating Captain Burton's proceedings, unconsciously but conclusively confirms the complaint of the Governor.

After stating that the Vali hates the Consuls of the Great Powers, the letter goes on to say, that his Excellency "still more hates Captain Burton, for he is virtually Governor here, and there is not much use for a Governor; and he dare not do anything wrong for fear of him, for he can neither bully nor bribe him."

If, as I can hardly doubt, the above gives a correct description of the position assumed by Captain Burton, it certainly seems to show him to have misunderstood the duties and line of conduct to be followed by Her Majesty's Consular Agents, who, by co-operation or by friendly remonstrances with the provincial authorities, as the case may seem to require, may contribute powerfully to the well-doing of a district; but who, by raising themselves up as rival or antagonistic powers, cannot fail to produce a state of things which may lead to disastrous results.

That many abuses exist in the administration of the province may be fairly assumed; but Captain Burton, in his desire to remedy them, has not, as it appears to me, been sufficiently careful in avoiding just cause for umbrage on the part of those who are responsible for its tranquillity.

In looking back for the last four years I cannot but recollect that, previous to his assuming the direction of the Consulate of Damascus, neither the local authorities nor Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout had felt the slightest anxiety about the state of the district, but that there has been a gradually increasing uneasiness ever since.

The knowledge that the British Consul is in direct opposition with the local authorities is liable to be taken by the restless populations of those countries as an encouragement to resist them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, the inclosed copy of a letter from the Governor-General to the Grand Vizier on the subject of Captain Burton's visit to the Hauran has been communicated to me. Neither it, nor his Excellency's letter to Captain Burton, sent to your Lordship by Mr. Eldridge, agrees with the intimation in Captain Burton's telegram, that the Vali made no objection to it.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Consul Burton to the Sheikhs of the Hauran.

(Traduction.)

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Le 22 Mars*, 1871.

JE m'empresse de vous informer que, animé du désir de m'entretenir avec vous, je quitterai Damas Mercredi pour vous rejoindre, et que j'arriverai ce jour même à Hedjan et le lendemain à Tabirta et le troisième jour à Fivaté. Je nourris l'espoir que vous ne manquerez pas tous de venir me rencontrer au dit village de Fivaté afin de prendre part à cette entrevue.

(Signé) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Damascus, June 22*, 1871.

TELEGRAM of June 19th received on June 21. Despatches, with full details, forwarded Friday 16th June. I cannot say if better for authentic till I see it. The Vali and Mr. Eldridge made no objection to my going. The object of visit is explained in the despatches. The authorities show no signs of misunderstanding now.

* This letter does not appear in the correspondence.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Damascus, June 9*, 1871.

Sir,

I THINK it my duty to bring to your Excellency's notice the state of affairs actually existing in Northern Syria.

As I have already reported (in my despatch of the 20th ultimo) the administration of the police and the protection of the city and its environs are left wholly in the hands of the Mir Aali Mustafa Bey, a man of noted incapacity and unusual fanaticism. His second in command is one Abdullah Agha, a negro, who, under the direction of his chief, encourages the conversion of Christians to Mahomedanism, and the feelings of the former, Greeks as well as Latins, are very strong upon this point. At the same time Bedouin raids are becoming the order of the day, and one has just been announced to me as having penetrated to within a few miles of Damascus.

During the last few months various reports about complications between the Sublime Porte and Egypt, have caused the people of Syria to believe that the Khedive awaits only an opportunity to declare himself independent; and it is the general idea that Syria will take part with Egypt. The conduct of the Wali (Governor-General) of Syria, his Excellency Rashid Pasha, who belongs to the family of Mohamed Ali, has contributed not a little to increase popular excitement. He has now held office for six years (since 1866), during which time he has amassed an immense fortune, and has allowed his partizans to follow his example. He has systematically dismissed all those who will not be the mere instruments of his will, for instance, Abd-el-Hadi Pasha, late of Beyrout and of Hamah. He has filled up all the most important posts with his own creatures, for instance, the Governor of Nazareth (Kusshir Agha) was his pipe-bearer. In order to make himself master of the situation he placed the Post Office in the hands of the Turkish authorities, and the privacy of letters has ever since been openly violated. A copy of every telegram is provided at once to head-quarters. It is the prevalent idea that the policy of Rashid Pasha is suspected by the Porte and that Ali Bey Bala was sent to Jerusalem in an independent position to counteract the dangerous influence of the Governor-General. But the latter contrives to make interests at Constantinople by means of many friends, notably of Said Effendi, whose son married his daughter, and the result is that he retains his appointment.

To Europeans and European subjects his Excellency Rashid Pasha has shown himself irreconcilably hostile. He declares openly that he has removed the Italian Consul, M. Pilastri; the Prussian Consul, M. Gontine; and the Spanish Vice-Consul, M. Ribadeneira; because they would not become his tools. He is now intriguing with all his strength against this Consulate, and he adopts the plan of affecting to believe all the false reports which he himself has originated. The Druses of the Hauran having paid me many visits, and wishing to return them, I left Damascus on the 24th ultimo, after writing to the Sheikhs that I desired to meet them all. We met, and I found them in great excitement, expecting to be attacked by his Excellency the Wali. I calmed them by assuring them, incidentally, that they had nothing to fear, and openly exhorted them to act like peaceful and loyal subjects of the Porte. His Excellency affects to believe that my visit had for object some political intrigue. It is reported that he is preparing to attack the Druses in their fastnesses, the Seja, and in the Jebel el Druse Hauran, and he would willingly charge me with having rendered his expedition necessary.

I may briefly show the animus of his Excellency Rashid Pasha against all European *protégés* by quoting an order lately issued in this vilayet:—"None but rayahs are henceforward allowed to buy the usher or dime of the villages, and all villagers who enter into such transactions with foreigners are to be accountable for disobeying this order." A French *protégé* has thus been compelled to renounce his foreign nationality. I need not point out the retrograde and anti-progressive nature of such a step, especially in these days when Turkey affects to encourage immigration. No English subject or *protégé* can expect justice in Damascus. The Protestant cemetery has again been violated. The violators were detected, and have been allowed to escape unpunished. Two English subjects, the Affghans Mohammed and Ahmed, were condemned without the presence of a Consular dragoman, and though I have had a lengthy correspondence upon the subject, I cannot obtain a revision of the sentence thus pronounced contrary to the capitulations.

Upon the subject of the large debt owed to M. Telimma Fuchs, and the village taken from M. Hanna Mirk, I shall be compelled again to address your Excellency.

The Baghdad postman was robbed by the Reivallah Bedawins during the last winter, and Colonel Herbert, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Baghdad, has applied for compensation to the extent of 66½ ghazis. This sum I have for months been attempting to recover, but in vain. An English caravan, led by Mr. Gaze, was plundered when passing through Kunaytinah of goods estimated at 31*l.* I have applied for the amount, but no answer has been returned. For many months I have been writing to his Excellency about the claim of a British-protected subject, Khawajeh Yakub Smouha, who demands 7,000 piastres, the value of his merchandize plundered about a year ago from a Baghdad caravan by the Bedouins in this neighbourhood. I cannot even obtain a reply. A Maltese surgeon, Dr. Dupont, having been compelled to send in his resignation, has applied, through this Consulate, for his arrears of pay. I sent a Consular dragoman to request liquidation, and the inclosed Report will show how he was received.

In conclusion, I would warn your Excellency that this part of Syria is in a state of abnormal excitement. The Latins and Greeks are upon the worst of terms, and the Mahommedans are equally hostile to both; whilst the policy of the Governor-General is evidently to encourage all manner of bad feeling, and to thwart those who would allay it. My best exertions have been devoted to the task of keeping peace and order, nor shall they cease as long as my services are required. This is the only Consulate at Damascus which at present maintains a shadow of independence; and I venture to hope that your Excellency will understand the reason, should vexatious reports be circulated about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Confidentielle.) *Damas, le* 18 *Juin*, 1871.

Altesse,

PAR le précédent courrier j'ai eu l'honneur de faire part à votre Altesse du voyage que M. Burton avait à mon insu entrepris et exécuté dans le Hauran et parmi les Druses. A son rétour j'ai cru devoir lui adresser la lettre ci-incluse, et depuis lors j'ai eu des renseignements exacts sur les faits et gestes de M. le Consul Anglais parmi les Druses. A part ses "speeches" publics, il a eu des entretiens secrets avec la plupart des Chefs, et si l'un d'eux le plus influent, le nommé Hazimé, n'était venu en personne m'en faire la confidence, j'aurai eu autant de difficulté que d'hésitation y ajouter foi. M. Burton a annoncé aux Druses que le Khedive se préparait à faire la guerre à la Sublime Porte, et qu'il élevait des fortifications en Egypte et que bientôt une armée Egyptienne entrerait en Syrie. Mais ce qui va causer le comble de l'étonnement à votre Altesse, c'est que Burton a osé ajouter que moi aussi je m'entendais avec l'Egypte, et, que le moment venu, je ferais cause commune avec le Khédive.

La plume me tombe des mains de stupeur et d'indignation. Que veut donc M. Burton? En répandant ces fausses nouvelles parmi les Druses, d'un côté il réveille en eux l'esprit de rébellion, leur faisant entrevoir un avenir menaçant, et de l'autre il cherche à saper l'autorité du vilayet en rendant les Druses méfiants à notre égard.

Jamais pareil attitude ne s'est vue chez un Agent de l'Angleterre. Il veut détruire par tous les moyens la paix relative qui règne maintenant dans le Hauran. Un homme comme Burton est un danger perpétuel pour ce pays.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) RACHID.

Inclosure 5 in No. 36.

M. Avadys to Consul Burton.

Damas, le 9 *Juin*, 1871.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que, conformément à votre ordre, je me suis présenté le 26 du mois passé chez son Excellence le Mouchir pour réclamer le payement des soldes arriérées de M. Dupont, sujet Anglais, qui était au service du Gouvernement Ottoman dans le 5me corps d'armée, et qui avait donné sa démission et

fut acceptée. Le Mouchir me reçut très froidement; cependant il finit à me renvoyer avec le dit Docteur chez le Reis Pacha pour être payé. Son Excellence Soleyman Pacha, Chef d'Etat-Major, me reçut à son tour avec un air de dédain, et sans attendre que je lui explicasse le but de ma mission, et sans me faire asseoir, il m'écria d'un ton fier en disant, "Qu'est ce que vous voulez, monsieur?" Je lui ai dit que je vien de la part du Consulat Britannique, pour réclamer le payement de M. Dupont. Eh bien, m'a-t-il dit, on lui payera; il ne faut pas presser trop. Je lui ai dit que c'est son Excellence le Mouchir qui m'a envoyé chez lui; autrement je ne serai pas présenté. Eh bien! m'a-t-il dit, allez dire au Mouchir que je ne puis pas payer tout de suite.

Alors je fis remarquer au Reis Pacha que comme je venais de la part du Consulat je n'attendais pas à être mal reçu si brusquement et sans raison, et que je suis prêt à m'en aller devant un accueil si impoli. Il m'a dit, C'est assez, c'est assez; retirez-vous et apportez une lettre officielle.

Vous voyez, M. le Consul, de quelle manière les autorités militaires reçoivent-elles le Drogman de ce Consulat quand il se présente en sa qualité officielle.

(Signé) AVADYS.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 14.)

(No. 81. Commercial.) *Therapia, July 5*, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Captain Burton in reply to mine calling upon him to explain how it was that he had not at once reported to me the occurrence at Nazareth. As Captain Burton, after his return to Damascus, had sent me despatches on indifferent subjects, there could have been no difficulty in forwarding a report upon the Nazareth affray, nor was there occasion for any special precaution in regard to it.

I have communicated to Server Effendi what Captain Burton says of the serious nature of the injury suffered by one of his attendants, and I said that, as there was every appearance of the Greeks having been guilty of a gross outrage, I hoped the actors in it would be properly dealt with.

His Excellency has assured me that, as soon as the guilt of the persons implicated is substantiated, they shall receive the merited punishment, there being on the part of the Government no sort of disposition to shield them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 9.) *Damascus, June* 11, 1871.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's official letter of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to explain the cause of the delay in reporting the attack upon my servants at Nazareth.

I was detained at Nazareth between May 5 and May 10, in order to watch the proceedings of the local authorities. The Turkish post was certainly open to me, but my despatch would assuredly have been read, and most probably would never have reached its destination. Even at Damascus I am compelled to be most circumspect when addressing despatches to Constantinople or Beyrout. After an official visit to the Jews of Tiberia and Safet (whose protection papers have not been renewed for many years, some, indeed, since 1849), on returning to Damascus (May 19), I addressed an official report to his Excellency the Governor-General, who undertook to forward it to his Government, together with the version of the affair supplied to him by the Reverend the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Nazareth. My report to your Excellency was again delayed by waiting for the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Taylor and of his three fellow-travellers.

The delay has thus arisen from my wish to lay the case before your Excellency complete in all its details. I can, if desired, supply confirmatory evidence of all my assertions, and can prove, by the medical certificate of the physician attached to the Protestant Mission of Nazareth, the severe injuries received by two of my attendants:

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

a third, Mohammed Cawwas, an Affghan, a British subject, and an old soldier, lies, I regret to say, in a most precarious state. He had concealed from me the severity of his injuries out of a sense of shame, but my companion, Mr. Drake, had heard of and had recorded them. Dr. Nicora, the sanitary officer placed here by the French Government, informed me four days ago that he had no hope of saving the wounded man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 38.

Earl Granville to Consul Burton.

(No. 3.) *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1871.

Sir,

YOU were informed by a despatch written to you on the 19th of June, 1869, by direction of the late Earl of Clarendon, that very serious objections had been made to your appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus; and that, though his Lordship was willing to allow you to proceed to that post on receiving your assurance that the objections were unfounded, you were warned that it would be necessary that you should be recalled if the feeling stated to exist against you on the part of the authorities and people of Damascus should prevent the proper discharge of your official duties.

I regret to have now to inform you that the complaints which I have received from the Turkish Government in regard to your recent conduct and proceedings render it impossible that I should allow you to continue to perform my Consular functions in Syria; and I have accordingly to desire that you will, on receipt of this despatch, hand over the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to the person whom Mr. Consul-General Eldridge will appoint to carry on the duties of the Consulate until further orders.

You will, therefore, make your preparations for returning to this country with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 39.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 18. Consular.) *Foreign Office, July* 24, 1871.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, under flying seal, a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Mr. Consul Burton,* setting forth the circumstances which have rendered it imperative that he should be relieved from the duties belonging to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus; and I am to instruct you to appoint, without delay, some fit person to carry on the duties of the Consulate until some further arrangement shall have been come to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 78. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1871

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 81, Commercial, of the 5th instant, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Consul Burton,* instructing him to return to this country and to hand over the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to the person whom Mr. Consul-General Eldridge may select for that purpose.

I am, &c.
(For Earl Granville),
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

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* No. 38.

No. 41.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 5.) *Damascus, July* 1, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 15.) *Damascus, July* 1, 1861.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to bring the following circumstances to your Excellency's notice:—

About noon on Thursday, June 29, 1871, I received a letter from Miss James, Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools at Damascus, and covering a note from Mrs. Mentor Mott, of Beyrout. The object was to suggest active measures in the case of a Moslem convert to Christianity. Hadj Hassan el Arbagie, after having been waylaid and beaten (according to Dr. John Wortabet), had been ordered up from Beyrout to Damascus, in the custody of a policeman, by his Excellency the Governor-General.

I at once wrote to his Excellency representing that such action was an infraction of the Treaty of 1856, which secured life and liberty to the so-called "renegades." On the evening of the same day his Excellency replied to me, apparently ignoring the Treaty, and denying my right to interfere in a matter concerning the subject of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. At the same time he courteously forwarded for my perusal a despatch which he had addressed to the Doyen of the Consular Corps, Beyrout, complaining of the conduct of Protestant missionaries, in secret proselytizing; though he admitted that the convert, Hassan, had openly attended a Christian church for some time; and justifying the arrest of the convert upon the plea of his requiring to be "counselled."

Haj Hassan arrived at Damascus on the evening of Thursday the 29th ultimo. On the morning of Friday, the 30th ultimo, I requested Mr. Selim Meshaka, Dragoman in this Consulate, to wait upon his Excellency, and to beg that the convert might be visited by the resident missionaries, Messrs. Wright and Crawford.

The answer was a refusal. I was on the point of sending a telegram to your Excellency when it was announced to me that the prisoner had been set free. On the following morning I addressed a letter of thanks to Rashed Pasha, and had the honour to assure him that such an act of justice and toleration would win for him the esteem and good-will of the Christian community in Syria.

Haj Hassan, after being placed in safety at Her Majesty's Consulate, will leave Damascus this evening in charge of the Rev. M. Waldmeier, of the British Syrian Schools. It is reported that an association of young Moslems, at Beyrout, proposes to murder the convert after his return home. His Excellency Raouf Pasha Mutasarrif, of that city, is strong enough to prevent such an outrage; and a telegram from Constantinople, to the effect that justice is expected from him, would doubtless determine the authorities energetically to protect the convert.

On the morning of Friday, the 30th ultimo, it was reported to me that a certain Arif ibn Abd-el-Ghani-el-Nablusi (a well-known family at Nablus), who had sacrilegiously stolen fourteen lamps and a silver padlock, had been found hanging in the prison of the Great Amauri Mosque at Damascus. Knowing the locality well, I cannot understand how the man could have hanged himself without attracting the attention of the numerous night guardians, not to speak of the Indian and Affghan pilgrims who swarm in the cloisters; nor do I see why an inquest was not held upon the body. It is certain that some years ago the man in question became a Christian at Athens, and that a strong feeling against him existed at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 42.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 5, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, and to solicit for it your Lordship's attention.

The existence of these large claims is a continual source of irritation to the local authorities; it is my duty to press them; it is their interest to repel them. Since correspondence upon this point has commenced, I find the transaction of business somewhat facilitated. My letters, which before were laid aside for months, are now answered after the shortest possible interval. As regards the apparent resolution at head-quarters here to take my proceedings in ill part, and to regard all movements with suspicion, I expect to see the effects cease as soon as the cause shall be removed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Damascus, July 3, 1871.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to supply your Excellency with the following details:—

Before leaving Damascus, the convert, Haj Hassan appeared at Her Majesty's Consulate, and on Saturday, July 1, I made a *procès verbal* of his case since he left Beyrout. He had been placed under arrest in the house of a bigoted Moslem Mustafa Bey, the Mir Ali of Police, who, after allowing him to be maltreated, threatened him with strangling. About midday on Friday, June 30, he was sent for by his Excellency the Governor-General who, after locking the door, began with asking him if he did not fear death, and ended by offering 30,000 piastres as a douceur for apostasy. The convert refused, and was ordered, despite his protests, to leave Beyrout with his family after a term of twenty days, under pain of being sent to Constantinople with hands "in wood."

I venture to hope that this step will not be permitted. It will deal a fatal blow in Syria to the great principle of religious toleration. It will publicly prove our weakness by suggesting that, although supported by a Treaty which guaranteed life and liberty to all converts, we cannot defend a convert from banishment. The Wali will, of course, plead that his action, which I cannot but describe as contrary to Treaty, is intended to preserve a life threatened by a bigoted Moslem party. But he knows as well as I do that he can, if he really desires, protect the convert from violence. It is, however, evidently his object to gain favour with the people, whom his want of fanaticism has somewhat offended, and even more to show to the world his contempt of European opinion and Consular interference.

I have deemed it my duty to address his Excellency with a request for information touching the death of Arif Effendi ibn Abd el Ghani el Nablusi. The Governor-General, however, returned my letter, declaring that any reply to it would be a personal justification of his conduct, and, viewing the affair in this light, he declines to notice it. I am therefore compelled to offer an unofficial version of the death which I have collected from many reliable sources.

It appears that the deceased returned to the Libanus about three years ago, and represented himself to be a Moslem converted to Christianity (Greek Orthodox); that he was enticed by promises into Damascus; that a charge, true or false, of robbing mosque property was brought against him, and that he was arrested and confined in the mosque. This was an irregular step; the man should have been placed in the public prison. On the morning of Saturday, July 1, Arif Effendi was found hanging. The public voice naturally inquired how a man imprisoned and carefully guarded could obtain a rope in order to commit suicide, and the public conscience was appeased with the report that the death had been inflicted by Sayyidna Yahya (St. John the Baptist), in *propriâ personâ*. Finally, I am assured that the body was not submitted to a medical inquest, as is the custom in order to ascertain if the mouth had been gagged, and if marks of violence appeared upon it. As, however, it is well known that this correspondence will be reported, an official account of the death can be readily drawn up with all the usual formalities.

I venture to hope that your Excellency will cause this mysterious death, which is terrifying the Christians and rejoicing the Moslems of Damascus, to be made the subject of official inquiry, and will oppose the illegal banishment of the convert Haj Hassan. Both cases evidence the state of affairs actually existing in Syria under the present administration.

The convert Haj Hassan, when making his deposition at the Consulate, declared that a Moslem acquaintance of his named Hans mudeh ibn el Bekk, a native of Latikia, and domiciled at Beyrout, had disappeared about twelve days before the date of the *procès verbal* (July 1). I will not vouch for the truth of this report.

The Treaty of February 12, 1856 (Hertslet, vol. x. p.), absolutely confirms life and liberty to all converts and so-called renegades. But that concession was made in direct opposition to the spirit of the Moslem world, which denounces the apostate as being unworthy to live, and which holds his private assassination lawful and right. As early as December 1857, one of my predecessors, Mr. Consul Brandt, C.B., was compelled to invoke the aid of Her Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, in order to guarantee the immunity of the Moslem convert Khalil, and the affair was not settled without a long and exciting correspondence.

Almost as soon as I took charge of this Consulate (October 1869), certain Moslems, belonging to the Shazili order of Dervishes, became Catholics, and felt under the displeasure of the local Government. As they took refuge in the Spanish Casa Santa, as Catholic questions were then chiefly in the hands of France, and as the converts dealt in strange stories about visions and the supernatural falling off of their fetters, I did not think it proper to move in the matter. Still, it attracted the attention of travellers, especially of Mr. George Lane Fox.

It appears, then, that the Moslem authorities in Syria do not consider themselves bound to treat the person of the convert as inviolable. In his letter of June 29, 1871, his Excellency the Governor-General suggests that I should have pointed out the Article which forbade him to bring up the Haj Hassan under charge of a policeman to Damascus, and to place him in the house occupied by the chief of police.

In conclusion, without wishing in any way to impede freedom of action in cases of conversion, I venture to suggest that missionaries, especially Protestant missionaries in Syria, be invited carefully and conscientiously to consider whether they are justified in exposing a Moslem convert to the imminent risk of losing his life, and by irritating a fanatical people to risk causing for themselves and their co-religionists such outbreaks of fury as characterized the last decade at Aleppo, Jeddah, and Damascus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Damascus, July 4, 1871.*

AT the risk of importuning your Excellency I am compelled once more to represent the wrongs done to British subjects and protégés residing in this vilayet, and to forward a list of their claims, some of which date from upwards of four years. Such a reference to superior authority has not been necessary at Damascus since 1863, when Mr. Consul Rogers was obliged to appeal against his Excellency Rashdi Pasha. The present state of affairs is causing profound dissatisfaction amongst British subjects and protégés, and seriously injuring English interests in this part of the East. The local authorities are deaf to all the calls of justice, and they are supported by his Excellency the Wali, Mohammed Rashid Pasha. The object is evidently to ignore all foreign protection, and more especially to lower, as much as possible, the influence of European Consulates.

The three claims first mentioned date from the days before my taking charge of this Consulate. I have exercised all possible patience in the matter, and have freely given to it my time and labour; hardly a week has passed without my making an effort to procure justice. At last it has become evident to me that the repeated promises by word of mouth, by letter, and by telegram were made only to be broken, and that the rights of British subjects and protégés will be withheld until your Excellency thinks proper to press for their being granted. I need hardly point out that my determination to procure from the local Government payment of its lawful debts is most distasteful to his Excellency the Governor-General and to all his subordinates. They cannot view

with pleasure so large a sum diverted into the pockets of foreign protégées, and they oppose me by all means, direct and indirect. The latter is, of course, the favourite tactic.

With respect to the claims Nos. 3 and 4, Vizirial letters were forwarded by your Excellency, and in several of my despatches (for instance, those of January 24, March 13, and June 13, 1871) I have explained what has been their fate. Both instruments purporting to be "orders for the settlement of those claims," and thus represented to your Excellency, were ambiguous, and were evidently written under the usual influence at Constantinople. I need hardly say that, even had they been satisfactory, the usual secret sign would have made them of no avail.

The Vizirial letters having failed to produce any effect, I have the honour of submitting to your Excellency the following plan for obtaining an equitable settlement of the claims in question, and to suggest that the amount, which may reach 6,000,000 piastres, justifies an exceptional measure. The only way to secure justice would be by appointing a Commission of two or three members, ordered in Constantinople to sit at Beyrout, where they would be less liable to be influenced than at Damascus. The Commercial Tribunal of Beyrout would, I doubt not, depute, if requested to do so, three European members to associate themselves, upon equal terms, with the Commissioners. The Consulate could name a dragoman who would look to the interests of the claimants and claim repayment of his expenses from the local Government. Finally, disputed points might be referred either to Her Majesty's Consul-General for Syria or myself.*

Such a Commission, especially if the Ottoman members are carefully chosen at Constantinople, would not only remedy past evils, it would prove that the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan does not countenance the wrongs inflicted upon the subjects of a Power which has ever been his most faithful ally, and it would have the happy effect of securing their rights and privileges in the time to come.

But such a measure will, I fear, be strongly resisted as constituting a precedent. My expectation is that a *bond fide* order will be sent from Constantinople directing his Excellency the Governor-General to settle the claims, but with the least possible outlay of capital.

However strongly this order may be worded, all my work will begin again, every item will be disputed, and the inquiry will be prolonged, perhaps for years,—in fact, until his Excellency, Mohammed Rashid Pasha, finds it no longer worth his while to govern Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

List of long-pending British Claims presented at different times to Rashid Pasha.

1. M. Yakub Stamboudi, Jewish protected subject.—The case of this claimant was settled in 1863, and again in 1867 and 1868, by the local Government, which has repeatedly refused to fulfil its solemn engagements. It has often been reported and commented upon, especially by Mr. Consul Rogers (January 2, 1869), and by Mr. Acting Consul Wood (July 16, 1869). The amount presented to this Consulate as far back as December 6, 1869, amounted to 3,573,375 piastres, to which interest and compound interest are now added.

2. Mr. Honorary Dragoman Hanna Misk, whose claim to his village of Rayyah was forwarded in my official letters of October 6, 1870, and of June 9, 1871, I have repeatedly referred to the local Government, and, on one occasion, Mr. Consul-General Eldridge and I waited upon his Excellency the Governor-General in order to plead the cause; but nothing has been done, and, after promise upon promise, the case is simply ignored.

3. Mr. Telmini Fuchs, Jewish protected subject.—This claim has been more than once reported by me, especially in my despatches of November 16, 1870, and of June 21, 1871. The amount in June 1871 was 621,439 piastres. This case was supposed to have been settled by the Vizirial letter of Ramazan 20, A.H. 1287, but the document merely directed that the claim be raised from Bedouin plunderers, who have already been stripped, in the claimant's name, of all their property.

* Should the Sublime Porte object to the expense of such a Commission, the Commissioners might be reduced from two or three to one on each side.

4. Messrs. Finzi, Barbour, and Co., an Anglo-Belgian house, established at St. Jean d'Acre.—Their claim was undertaken by me in November 1869, pursued by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, and reported by me in No. 13 of June 27, 1871. On January 4 1870, the amount was 225,000 piastres, to which must be added interest at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum. This case was also supposed to have been settled by the Vizirial letter, dated Shuban 13, A.H. 1286 (February 25, 1871). But, instead of ordering the ex-Governor of Acre, Mahommed Bey el Yusuf, who authorized the heads of villages to ignore their debts, and who thus ruined the firm, to pay the sums with whose recouping he had maliciously interfered, the document confuses the demands from the villagers with the demands from the ex-Governor. Moreover, it does not mention the sum due, nor does it order any inquiry to be made into the case of Messrs. Fingi and Barbour's servant, the Druse Yusuf Hamdan, who was beaten and tortured in the ex-Governor's private house. M. Finzi, junior, on June 6, 1871, visited Damascus, in order to push his claim. The case has been ignored by the Governor-General, and there is, at present, no prospect of the house being able to save itself from ruin.

5. M. Yusuf Sinuhali, Jewish-protected subject.—This claim upon certain Bedawin who had plundered his camels close to Damascus, was reported by me to the local Government in November 1869, and lastly on May 23, 1871. The amount is now a total of 15,300 piastres.

Amongst minor claims are the following:—

1. That of Sulyman el Haddad, the English courier from Baghdad, plundered by the Ruwalla Bedawin of goods valued at 66½ ghazis (= 16 napoleons 10 francs), and reported by me to the local Government on January 10, 1870, and lastly on May 23, 1871.

2. That of Mr. Excursionist Gaze, whose party was plundered at Kunayterah of 31*l.* 7*s.* Reported the theft to the local Government on May 21, 1871, and again on June 24, 1871.

3. M. Hanna Azar, Dragoman to this Consulate.—On the 22nd June, 1871, the Ghiyas Bedawin and others attacked his village Suwaydah, and plundered from it 700 mudds of barley, valued at 7,700 piastres. After I had made repeated representations, his Excellency the Wali sent certain inspectors to estimate the damage done, and those persons, by threatening the Sheikhs of the neighbouring villages with the vengeance of the Bedawin, secured testimony to the effect that the loss was only 120 mudds, and that the plunder was the work of the wild beasts.

Amongst cases which cannot be called claims, but which call for settlement, are the following:—

1. The violation of the Protestant Cemetery by the people of the Shaghur quarter (Damascus). This outrage has occurred thrice within twenty months, and, where justice is so studiously withheld, I can hardly hope that it will not be renewed. The last act of plunder was reported by me to Constantinople on May 20, 1871. I would suggest that a fine of 20 napoleons be levied from the Moslems of the Shaghur quarter, to be applied to repairing the tombs, and to building a second or outer wall, which would render the place inaccessible. Such a mulct is not contrary to law at Damascus, and is the only measure capable of arresting similar misdeeds.

2. The British Syrian Schools have been long applying for the grant of a village in the Bukaa (Cœle-Syria), and I am informed that a deputation has waited, or will wait, upon Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with a view of supporting the application. I need hardly say that where the claims of justice are so little considered, all my endeavours during upwards of a year have failed to obtain an act of generosity.

3. Asad Yalzal, Bey of Beyrout, agent to Messrs. Asad Yalzal and Co., of Manchester, has been for months endeavouring, but in vain, to have an order carried out by the local Government that issued it. At last he addressed a complaint to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It was the custom at Damascus (for instance, in the case of M. Furryj, No. 15 of March 13, 1858) temporarily to confer British protection upon agents for English firms, or for firms settled in England, and I venture to recommend that such a step be taken in this instance. Asad Yalzal Bey has a son born in England, and the family is exposed to be ruined by the personal animosity of his Excellency the Governor-General.

No. 43.

Mr. Drake to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

Damascus, July 8, 1871.

My Lord,

I CONSIDER it my duty, as an eye-witness, to address your Lordship on the subject of the attack made on Captain Burton's servants by the Greek Catholics at Nazareth, as I find that his Excellency the Wali has misrepresented the matter in a gross way, showing the animus which has prompted him to use this, and Captain Burton's excursion to the Hauran, for his own political ends.

Having obtained some insight into the Eastern ways of thought and action during several years' travel, I have less diffidence in vouching for these facts to your Lordship than one unacquainted with the language and the people would have, and my present work on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund induces me to mix much with the people.

As I was travelling at the time with Captain Burton I saw the whole of the affair at Nazareth, and am thoroughly acquainted with the proceedings which have taken place since. I can show that the telegram sent to Constantinople by his Excellency the Wali two days before Captain Burton's return to Damascus is a malicious perversion of the truth. His Excellency, of course, only heard the Greek side, and was too glad to be able to report, to Captain Burton's detriment, such a (seemingly) grave matter. I forwarded an account of the *émeute* to Sir Henry Elliot, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary, Constantinople (on June 10, 1871), as I knew that absurdly false reports had been sent with the Wali's knowledge and sanction. Had I known that an official in his high position would have personally attacked Captain Burton behind his back in such a dastardly and ungentlemanly way, I should have taken the liberty of writing to your Lordship as well.

I also accompanied Captain Burton for the few days that he was in the Hauran, and was present at every interview, long or short, that he had with any of the Druses. On one occasion his advice was asked respecting the course of action they ought to pursue. He shortly replied that they must submit to the Turkish Government, and that it would be madness to oppose it. To this they agreed. Except in these few minutes politics were never touched upon. Our trip to the Hauran was simply devoted to geographical and antiquarian researches; but at the same time we naturally desired to see some of the people, and Captain Burton, not wishing to be away from Damascus more than a few days, invited some of the Sheikhs to meet us at Kunawat, as we could not spare time to visit them separately. This they were very glad to do.

As regards the telegram sent by his Excellency, Rashid Pasha, to the Wezer at Constantinople on May 24th, 1871, I beg leave to observe to your Lordship that the passage, "Un rassemblement d'enfants encombrait les abords de l'église; une querelle s'éleva entre ces enfants et les domestiques du Consul," gives an utterly false impression. We were camped about 80 yards from the outer wall surrounding the church, and at least 100 yards from the entrance to the church. The children never meddled or were meddled with. The Copt, who came up to the tents and wished to enter Mrs. Burton's before she was up, and refused to go away until compelled by the servants, and thus began the disturbance, was at least 18 or 19 years old. The continuation, "ce dernier [*i. e.*, le Consul] s'était armé pour prendre part à la querelle et s'étant servi de ces armes contre les Grecs," can only be designated as a lie. Captain Burton and I, hearing the disturbance, which was behind the church wall, as the Greeks had decoyed the servants thither, ran down, half-dressed, in our slippers, and unarmed. I can only admire and praise Captain Burton's coolness in firing one shot only over the heads of the mob with a pistol, which one of the servants had, and which was the only one amongst the whole party in the riot.

Again the sentence, "Quelques uns des domestiques furent légèrement blessés," can only be stigmatized as a lie, which the Wali has since tried to prove true by the testimony of two self-entitled doctors, whose testimony is so absurd as to prove its own falsehood. Two of the servants lay for several days unable to move, and one continued to spit blood till after his return to Damascus. The Kawass, an Afghani, complained to me (as I mentioned in my letter to Sir H. Elliot) of being severely struck in the groin, but was too brave to lay up for it. Since the date of that letter he has been near death's door with a very bad gangrened rupture (I speak as an eye-witness), but is happily now recovering.

The telegram goes on to state that extenuating circumstances are found in the fact that the attack upon the Consul's person was not made with arms. Large stones, however, when thrown by a mob of 100 to 150 men, at a distance of a few feet, are weapons of offence not to be despised. The only wonder I can feel is that none of our party were killed.

As regards the exaction made by the Consul for the prisoners to be taken to Damascus, I beg deferentially to suggest that it was in the power of the Turkish authorities to refuse to accede to Captain Burton's request if it were not *en règle*, and I think it cannot but suggest itself as a snare set by his Excellency Rashid Pasha.

Again, the Christians are said to have protested their innocence, declaring that they were provoked on a fête-day by the Consul shooting at them with bullets. The latter part is a double lie, as they were neither shot at nor did they say so at Nazareth. Of course they protested their innocence, as criminals usually do, but the accused were thoroughly identified. Several, whose identification was doubtful, were instantly dismissed.

There was a certain amount of feeling against Captain Burton on the part of the Greeks for his having opposed their lawless appropriation of an old synagogue at Tiberias, which was clearly Jewish property. The Wali, too, favours the Greeks in every way, and aids them in trampling upon the Latins, who have suffered severely by the downfall of France. Captain Burton is naturally hated by his Excellency the Wali as being the only man in the country—I speak advisedly, and the same will be found to be the opinion of all educated natives who have the true interests of Syria at heart, and do not look on the country with the eyes of a Turkish official, burning with lust of peculation—the only man who has the wits to foresee and the courage to oppose acts of the Wali which, if carried on, would bring ruin or a massacre on Syria.

From personal experience I can state that the country is in such an abnormally excited state that any injudicious act of the Wali might light a fire which he would be quite unable to quench. In conclusion, I may say that wherever I have been, as I have, through the length and breadth of the country, I never heard a good word spoken for his Excellency Rashid Pasha, nor a bad one against Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus. The general prayer, often confidentially expressed to me throughout the whole Vilayet of Syria, is, that Captain Burton's influence might be extended by making Damascus a Consulate-General, and that the present Governor-General, Rashid Pasha, may be removed; "for," say the people, "we cannot in any way lose, and we probably shall gain by the change, for it is hardly likely that another man can be found who will so systematically plunder our country and depopulate our villages to fill his own pockets.

The enormous amount of bribes taken by his Excellency is so notorious and undeniable that it is quite superfluous for me to draw your Lordship's attention to it, but it renders his hatred and opposition to Her Majesty's Consul quite intelligible, as directed against a man who will neither accept bribes, nor, when it lies in his power, suffer others to do so, and who energetically demands that commodity so distasteful to Turkish officials—viz., simple justice.

Hoping that your Lordship will consider this letter of sufficient importance to excuse its length,

(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

No. 44.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 12.) *Aleh, Mount Lebanon, July 12*, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch of this day's date, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting Captain Burton's recent visit to the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Aleh, Mount Lebanon, July 12, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, forwarding to me, under flying seal, your despatch to Captain Burton, and requesting

to be informed of any explanation he may have made to me in reference to his invitation to the Chiefs to meet him, and to his visit to the Hauran.

Beyond a few vague expressions in private letters, I have received from Captain Burton no explanations respecting his visit to the Hauran, or of the letter addressed to the Chiefs, which seems to me to have been simply intended to give notice of his journey to those who might wish to see him.

With reference to the statement in Captain Burton's telegram of the 22nd ultimo, that I made no objection to his journey, I beg to repeat what I stated in my despatch of the 18th ultimo, that I only heard of Captain Burton's intention by a private letter from him, dated the 23rd of May, and received by me about noon on the 25th, in which he says, "I start from Jebel Druse to-morrow morning," that is, on the 24th, so that I could not have made any objection to the journey, which was already commenced, and Captain Burton would have passed the first place mentioned in his letter to the Chiefs before I heard of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 45.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July 12, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Damascus, July 12, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the copy of a letter yesterday received by me.

The Rev. Mr. Zeller, of the Protestant Mission, is one of the oldest residents, in Syria, and is a man highly respected on account of the moderation of his opinions and the constancy which he has displayed in a somewhat difficult task.

I venture to observe to your Excellency that this gentleman's written testimony corroborates and confirms the statements made by a fellow-traveller, Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and by the Rev. Mr. Taylor and his three companions—the fourth, Rev. Mr. Northey, having left the party before they gave their witness in presence of the Criminal Tribunal of Damascus.

Upon my return to this city I reported to the Governor-General the police arrangements which appeared necessary at Nazareth, but I need hardly add that my report was not even noticed.

The Latins are now in a minority at Nazareth, and the Greeks have become the petty tyrants of the place. I am the first European that they have grossly assaulted, but few have passed through Nazareth without being robbed by them; and did travellers understand the foul and insulting language used to them, there would be trouble any time a caravan halts there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Mr. Zeller to Consul Burton.

Dear Sir, *Nazareth, June 28, 1871.*

ON my return from Jerusalem the 26th instant, I found your letters of May 23 and June 9, with the order from his Excellency the Wali regarding Mich. Kawar. I beg to thank you, in the name of the Protestant community, for your kind assistance,

and I hope this order, demanding that in no case a Protestant should be tried, except in the presence of their representative, may be the means of protecting them in future from injustice.

I am very sorry to see that the tone of the Greeks is still of a defiant character, and that they, not only at Damascus, but also at Jerusalem, spread exaggerated and false reports in the hope to escape the punishment which their brutal attack upon yourself and your servants so well deserves. I deeply regret this occurrence, and I am well aware that the savage conduct of the Greek Christians may lead you to form an exaggerated idea of their turbulent character. Yet, since Protestant missionaries came to Nazareth in 1850, the behaviour of the Greeks formed a favourable contrast to the intolerance and violence of the Latin Christians, who repeatedly attacked the missionaries and their premises. The conduct of the Greeks on the 5th of May was probably not prompted by any ill-feeling against European travellers, none of whom, during the last years, were molested by a Greek Christian; however it shows the highly excitable and impulsive character of the people, who, heedless of the consequences, are delighted to fight any one, relying on the superior number of their community. The defiant spirit exhibited by the Greeks after this occurrence is principally due to the influence of their leaders, who often use their power to prevent the punishment of an offender, if he belongs to their party, and thus vitiate the moral ideas of the people, whilst Turkish officials are too weak to offer any opposition. All measures taken by you for the arrest and subsequent punishment of the ringleaders, were, therefore, absolutely necessary. For if an outrage like this could escape punishment, no Englishman would in future visit Nazareth without a feeling of shame, or without experiencing considerable inconvenience.

This riot strikingly shows the necessity of an improvement in the Police arrangements of this place. Nazareth is every year visited by a large number of English travellers, and they, as well as the English residents here, have neither the assistance of a British Consular Agent, nor is there a Consulate within easy reach. It is, therefore, the more necessary that a superior and perfectly trustworthy individual should be appointed Kaimacam of Nazareth, who might be independent of the above-mentioned local influences, and afford a guarantee for the security of foreigners.

In case my opinion about some further particulars should be welcome to you, I shall, as far as my knowledge goes, be happy to give it.

With kind regards, I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ZELLER.

No. 46.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 91. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1871.*

MR. CONSUL BURTON has forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch inclosing a list of the pending British claims at Damascus, and stating his inability to obtain a settlement of them.

I do not question the correctness of what Captain Burton asserts in this respect; for when the relations between the Consul and the authorities are such as those unfortunately prevailing at Damascus, many simple cases, which a little good-will on both sides would easily have brought to a conclusion, inevitably remain unsettled, and ultimately necessitate appeals to Her Majesty's Embassy and to the Porte, which would otherwise have been avoided.

Your Lordship will not wish me to go through the list sent by Captain Burton, but I may state generally, that it proves, on examination, less formidable than I had feared it might be, the cases being, for the most part, of a secondary importance, and of the class which contributes in no small degree to the heavy routine work of this Embassy, but with which I do not ordinarily think it necessary to take up your Lordship's time.

The first and principal case on the list is that of Jacoub Stambouli, respecting whom I would refer your Lordship to a despatch of Captain Burton of the 21st of November last, explaining the usurious nature of his claims, and recommending that he should not be supported in them by Her Majesty's Consulate.

Mr. Hanna Misk's claim is one of a complicated nature, involving legal difficulties; but it has certainly not been "simply ignored," as Captain Burton supposes. It had

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

formed the subject of a correspondence from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, to whom, on the 20th of May, I forwarded the reply which I had received from the Porte to the representations that I had made respecting it, of the other and minor cases: those which had been brought to my knowledge, previous to the complaint against Captain Burton by the Vali, were being dealt with at the Porte in the usual manner, but those which I have subsequently received have been allowed to stand over, in order that they might not be prejudiced by the ill-feeling at present prevailing at headquarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Damascus, November 21, 1870.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the following state of affairs in Damascus:—

In former days, when not a few European Consuls were open to certain arrangements, which made them take the highest interest in the business transactions of their clients, a radically bad system, happily now almost extinct, was introduced into Syria. The European subject, or protégé, instead of engaging in honest commerce, was encouraged to seek inordinate and usurious profits by sales to the Government, and by loans to the villagers. In such cases he, of course, relied entirely upon the protection of a foreign Power, on account of the sums to be expended in feeing native functionaries before repayment could be expected. Thus the Consuls became, as it were, huissiers or bailiffs, whose principal duty it was to collect the bad debts of those who had foreign passports.

Damascus contains a total of forty-eight adult males, protected by Her Majesty's Consulate; and of these the three principal are Messrs. Daud Harari, Tsheh Toby, and Yaukub Stambouly. All are Jews, who were admitted to, or whose fathers required, a foreign nationality, given with the benevolent object of saving them from Moslem cruelty and oppression in days gone by. These protégés have extended what was granted for the preservation of their lives, liberties, and property, to transactions which rest entirely for success upon British protection. The case of M. Yaukub Stambouly, whose family, as his name denotes, is from Constantinople, and whose affairs must be known by repeated representations to Her Majesty's Embassy, will explain what I mean. He has few dealings in the city, the field of action. But since the death of Shahin Aga, his highly-respectable father, in 1861, he has been allowing bills, signed by the ignorant peasantry of the province, to accumulate at simple and compound interest, till the liabilities of the villagers have become greater than the value of the whole village. Arneh, for instance, on the eastern skirt of Mount Hermon, owes him 100,000 piastres, which were originally 12,000 piastres. He claims 35,000 napoleons from the Jumblatt family, upon a total debt of 242,000½ piastres in 1857. I have not yet passed through a single settlement where his debtors did not complain loudly of his proceedings; and to Arneh may be added Azra, Zebedani, and Mejdel-el-Shano,—a stronghold of the Druses. Some villages have been partly depopulated by his exactions, and the injury done to the Druses by thus driving them from the Anti-Libanus to the Hauran, may presently be severely visited upon the Ottoman authorities. This British protégé is compelled every year, in his quality of shahsi (farmer of revenue), to summon the village Sheikhs, and peasantry, to imprison them, and leave them lying in jail till he can squeeze from them as much as possible, and to injure them by quartering bawalis or police upon them, who plunder whatever they can. He long occupied the whole attention, though it has other and more important duties of the Village Commission ("Komision of Mukasibet of Kuraza") established in A.H. 1280 (1863).

For about a year a Special Commission ("Komision Mukhass") has been sitting on his case, whose intricacies, complicated by his unwillingness to settle anything, weary out all the members. At different times he has quarrelled with every person in the Court, from the Defterdar, who is its President, to the Consular Dragomans who compose it. Even felony is freely imputed to him; he is accused of bribing the Government Kutibs (Secretaries) to introduce into documents sentences of doubtful import, for which he can found claims for increased and exorbitant interest; of adding lines to receipts and other instruments after they have been signed, and of using false

seals, made at home by his own servants. But lately, one of the latter publicly denounced him, but was, as usual, paid to keep silence. He is reported again and again to have refused, in order that the peasants might remain upon his books, the ready-money offered to him for the final settlement of village liabilities. I have attempted to bring these charges home to him, but in vain; his good management has baffled all my efforts, whilst leaving me morally certain that the charges are founded on fact. He corrupts or attempts to corrupt all those with whom he has dealings. I was compelled to dismiss, shortly after taking charge, a dragoman who was his paid agent. M. Stambouly and his son openly state that they secured, for a sum of 100*l.*, the good offices of my immediate predecessor, the Acting Consul, Mr. Wood, junior, and that Mr Rogers, whom he relieved, was also open to such arrangements. In my own case they proceeded, till summarily stopped, to throw out direct hints touching Arab mares, and indirect ones touching diamond rings.

These scandals, which do not, however, exhaust the list, make me desirous of finding M. Yaukub Stambouly, and the two other Jewish-protected subjects, upon a footing which will prevent them from breeding mischief in this Consulate.

With your Excellency's permission I would inform them that British protection extends to preserving their persons and property from all injustice and violence; but that it will not assist them to recover debts from the Ottoman Government, or from the villagers of the Province, and that it will not abet them in imprisoning or in detaining the latter. To such general rule, of course, exceptions would be admissible at the discretion of the officer in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate; in cases, for instance, when just and honest claims might be rejected, or their payment unduly delayed. The sole inconvenience which can arise to such creditors from their altered position would be the necessity of feeing the Serai more heavily than at present, and even now they openly communicate with the local authorities, reserving the Consulate as a forlorn hope. The change may possibly direct their attention to a more legitimate commercial career. Such a measure would be exceedingly popular throughout the country, and will relieve us from the suspicions of interested motives; a suspicion which must exist where honour and honesty are almost unknown, and from the odium which attaches to the official instruments of oppression. Finally, the almost universal corruption of Damascus renders me more jealous of the good name of the Consulate, and the more desirous of personal immunity from certain reports which have been spread about those in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 47.

Mr. Odo Russell to Mr. Drake.

Foreign Office, August 4, 1871.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, containing an account of the circumstances attending the recent disturbances at Nazareth; and I am, in reply, to express to you his Lordship's thanks for this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 48.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 8.) *Damascus, July 11, 1871.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 1 of the 14th ultimo, which has been delayed *en route*, and to supply full details concerning the inclosed telegram from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha.

The telegram, I will observe, is dated May 16, or two days before my return to Damascus, after the short leave granted by your Lordship. It is, therefore, purely an *ex parte* statement, the Greek view of the case adopted by the Governor-General. Its tone and tenor show its animus sufficiently well.

The Governor-General says truly that I am often on the move, and my "peregrinations" are well known to be very distasteful to him. They show me the serious maladministration which has of late years characterized the Government of Syria. They have proved to me that the Governor-General's own creatures are appointed to all the important posts. I have become aware of his intrigues with the Greek Church, and, through it, with Russia; of his wasting the revenues of the Porte, and of numerous other malpractices, which will be brought to light by his removal. When leaving Damascus city to inspect my district, I always place Her Majesty's Consulate under the Senior Dragoman, Mr. Nesif Meshaka, whose name commands the highest respect; and with him are associated three other Dragomans, so that work is never interrupted. I cannot ascertain the truth of a single report without visiting in person the place whence it originated. I therefore hope that your Lordship will be pleased to leave my movements within the range of this Consulate free and unfettered; in fact, at my own discretion. The despatches which will presently reach you may serve to prove that in travelling I do not waste my time, and that I have acquired in twenty months a knowledge of the country which others do not possess after as many years of residence.

It was not an assembly of children that collected round the Greek church on May 5, 1871. Most of them, including the Copt, who began the disturbance, were adults. My fellow-traveller, Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, can bear witness to the truth of this, and of all my other statements.

I did not arm myself in order to take part in the quarrel. My fellow-traveller and I left our tents to see what the disturbance was, and, being unarmed, we ran the risk of losing our lives. Stones are weapons at Nazareth.

I did not use my arms against the Greeks, nor did I fire bullets at them. I took a pistol from one of my servants and I discharged it once in the air. Most men, when attacked by a furious mob, and three times struck at a distance of nine or ten feet, would not have been so merciful. The moderation of my conduct is testified to by the Rev. Mr. Taylor and his four companions.

My servants were not slightly wounded; three were severely injured, and of these one has been lately upon the point of death. Another spat blood for a fortnight. I can, if necessary, forward medical certificates, signed by Dr. Varton, of the Nazareth Mission, and by Dr. Nicora, the surgeon established by the French Government at Damascus.

I did not exact that several persons should be sent, with hands tied, to Damascus. I laid my complaint in due form before the Governor and the tribunal of Nazareth; both were powerless to punish the offenders. I then sent a special messenger to St. Jean d'Acre, the *chef lieu* of the Department, requesting that a telegram be addressed to the Governor-General to the effect that twelve men had been identified as being most active in the affray, by myself and others, and to request that the two ringleaders might be sent in irons to Damascus. One of the twelve escaped, eleven were marched down to St. Jean d'Acre by the orders of the Governor-General, one was left there upon a so-called sick certificate, and ten were marched up to Damascus by the orders of the Governor-General. At that time my servants were so dangerously hurt that a trial for murder might have been necessary. But I exacted nothing. I applied officially, and my application was allowed.

Your Lordship will not be a little surprised to see the utter want of truth and the malicious perversion of fact which characterizes the Governor-General's telegram. It is now my duty to show the cause of its animus.

Rashid Pasha has ever sold his favour, his personal friendship, and his good word to the Consular Corps of Damascus, at the price of their not pushing the claims of their protégés, especially by reporting to Constantinople; of their not opposing his policy, and of their ignoring, as far as possible, his ambitious projects, his rapacity, his corruptness, and his encouraging the malpractices of his dependants. When Mr. Consul Rogers remonstrated against certain new taxes levied upon British-protected subjects (No. 31, Damascus, October 3, 1866), Rashid Pasha openly threatened to complain at Constantinople of his wishing to obstruct the free action of the local Government. The Governor-General has a personal repugnance to seeing the public money pass out of the Serai into the pockets of European protégés.

During the latter months of 1869, and almost through 1870, I patiently listened, as was reported by me* (No. 17, July 4, 1871) to the succession of promises by word of mouth, by letter, and even by telegram, with which Rashid Pasha systematically, and, as is his wont, put off my just requisitions. Early in 1871 I deemed it my duty to declare that I could no longer countenance delays in settling the claims of British

* Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

subjects, which, as shown in the same despatch (No. 17), may amount to 6,000,000 piastres, delays which were ruining sundry houses.

Hence the hostility of Rashid Pasha. He has left nothing untried to injure a Consular Officer who has dared to do his duty. Hence, and hence only it is, that "serious complaints in regard to my general proceedings have been made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Government." My only desire is an opportunity of answering all such complaints: they are, doubtless, as unfounded and as malicious as the telegram which has now been noticed.

Meanwhile I am urging the claims of British subjects through Her Majesty's Embassy, and I venture to hope that I may be permitted to superintend the settlement of these claims, with whose every item the study of twenty months has made me familiar.

Your Lordship should be informed that, during the last month, Rashid Pasha has been preparing for an attack upon the Druse Mountain, which was frustrated by my timely visit. He has openly sold to the Greek Bishop of Nazareth a graveyard and a synagogue at Tiberias, which have belonged to the Jews for the last 400 years.

I am protesting energetically against this injustice. And he has, contrary to the Treaty of 1856, which secures life and liberty to all converts throughout the Ottoman dominions, lately imprisoned a certain Haj Hassan, a Moslem, who became a Christian at Beyrout. I have again offended him by protesting against this proceeding. His violence and rapacity are precipitating a movement of the utmost gravity. I shall not fail to represent it to your Lordship as soon as all the details are in my hands.

I am too well acquainted with the justice of Her Majesty's Government to fear that it will be influenced against one of its servants by the wearying succession of petty complaints, which is the favourite tactic of Rashid Pasha. His action in the affair of Nazareth proves how unfit he is for the high and honourable position which he occupies. It has been a real calamity to Syria that this Governor-General, a *protégé* of Aali Pasha, should have been allowed to rule it for the unusual term of five years, and to cause in it an amount of discontent, of misery, of absolute starvation before unknown. It is lamentable to see an active and comparatively industrious peasantry in one of the richest provinces of the Empire driven to live on grass and wild roots. And it is to be hoped that even the large sums of money which Rashid Pasha is known to remit to Constantinople will not save him from the disgrace which he merits.

The Governor-General, by forwarding the *ex parte* statement of his Greek friends, and by virtually endorsing its truth, has succeeded in having me placed under a kind of arrest, a circumstance which has not happened to me during my twenty-nine years' service of the Crown. I am directed not to quit the city of Damascus at a peculiarly unhealthy season, when my family cannot remain with me, and when the other English residents have left it for their summer quarters.

Having shown that the proceedings of the Governor-General are actuated by malice, I venture to hope that your Lordship will see justice done to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 27.) *Damascus, July 19, 1871.*

Sir,

IN several of my despatches, especially in that of June 9, 1871,* marked Confidential, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, had filled all the important posts with his friends and retainers. After the Bekka Expedition of July, 1869, he obtained from the Sublime Porte additional powers, and before the year had ended he dismissed many functionaries, and he promoted and decorated those placed in their stead. Since that time he has carefully excluded from office all except his own nominees. The following list of names and appointments proves the correctness of my statement, and it may explain the popular report that Syria is ready to join what is now called the Quintuple Alliance, and to declare her independence as soon as Egypt turns.

The important Governorship (Mutasarrifilik) of Hums (Emessa) and Namah (Epiphania) are now in the hands of Porto Pasha. This officer, originally a soldier in the Bashi Bazouks, was promoted by Rashid Pasha. Of Bedawi origin, he can command the active aid of his kinsmen, the Issawuldy, the Subho and other clans, which may be

* Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

able to bring 3,000 lances into the field. His brother, Mohamed Bey, has been made Governor of Mazyad in the Ensayri (Ansyrie) mountains.

Tripoli is under Vesi Pasha, an old favourite of the Governor-General, by whose orders he plundered the Sedani tribes about Hums and Hamah. This post was held by Abd-el-Nadiz Pasha, who, being a man of independent character, has been moved successively from Tripoli to Beyrout, and from Beyrout to Hums and Hamah. He is now shelved at Damascus.

At Baalbak, As'ad Effendi, an adherent of Rashid Pasha, has taken the place of Sabik Bey, lately promoted to a Pashalik.

Beyrout has been committed to Raoof Pasha, another dependent of Rashid Pasha. His movements are controlled by M. Delenda, a Smyrniote Greek, entituled, "Ma'amur Politika" (Political Chief). This person is said to have been brought up in Paris with Rashid Pasha, and he is held to exercise an influence the reverse of wholesome.

The Mutasarrif of Damascus is Ibrahim Pasha, an officer who gained but little credit as a member of the Tribunal of Commerce in this city. He was, however, promoted by Rashid Pasha to a Pashalik, and to the Government of the Hauran, and thence he was translated to the important post of Damascus. He is controlled by the Governor-General's Interpreter, a Greek, whose true name is Petros Didymos, but who is known as Subjat Effendi, and who is looked upon by all as an active partizan of the Greco-Russian party. His influence at Damascus is all for evil.

The Mutasarriflik of the Hauran Plain has been given to Mohammed Bey el Yusuf, whom I have mentioned in my despatches No. 13 of June 27, 1871, and No. 17 of July 4, 1871.* This young man, a Kurd of wealthy family, succeeded in ruining the house of MM. Frieze and Barbon at St. Jean d'Acre.

The Gharb el Bukaa (Western Cœlisyria) is under Mustapha Effendi, an old Inspector of the Douane at Damascus. He owes all his advancement to Rashid Pasha.

Sayda (Sidon) has been reduced to a Kiakam-lik: the actual holder is Shaku Bey, formerly a tom-tom player. He was promoted by Rashid Pasha, chiefly because he is on bad terms with his distinguished brother, Kamil Pasha.

Sur (Tyre) is under Nizib Bey, also a Kurd, and appointed by Rashid Pasha. This officer refuses to obey blindly; therefore he was transferred from Baalbak; and it is most probable that presently he will be recalled.

The Mutasarriflik of St. John d'Acre is under Rushdi Effendi, formerly Defterdar (first comptable) of the vilayet. He was removed, it is said, from Damascus on account of his irregular practices, and, after a year, he was transferred to this important place.

Hayfa (Caiffa) is under Ashraf Bey, son of Visa Pasha, a young man whose bad conduct to the Protestant missionaries and others at Rasheyya caused him to be removed to another and a better post.

Rasheyya, a turbulent place, with a large mixed population of Druses, Greeks, Moslems, and a few Protestant converts, has, for Kaimakam, Ashraf Effendi, who married a daughter of one of the Governor-General's concubines. His bad conduct caused him to be dismissed from Nursallakah.

Hasheyya, also in the slopes of Hermon, and the most important settlement in the celebrated Wady Taim, tenanted by Druses, Moslems, Greeks, and Protestants, is under the Kaimakam Kurshid Agha, a well-meaning man, but incapable of independent action, and wholly under the influence of Rashid Pasha.

Safit, where there is a large colony of Jews under British protection, is governed by the Kaimakam Abdel Kadir Bey Azmeh Zadeh, a man of good family, but almost incapacitated for business by his habits of intoxication.

Tiberias is also inhabited by Jews, many of them under British protection, Moslems, and Christians. In a despatch of July 6, 1871, No. 47, I have remonstrated with the Governor-General for permitting the Greek Bishop of Nazareth, M. Nilfon, to buy a synagogue and a cemetery belonging to the Jews during the last four centuries. Shuki Effendi is the Kaimakam; he was lately promoted by Rashid Pasha from Baysan (Scythopolis), in the Ghor, or Jordan Valley.

Nazareth, where we have a mission and a school, is governed by Khurshid Agha, formerly pipe-bearer to Rashid Pasha. The state of this town is described by me in my despatch of June 7, 1871,† and by the Rev. Mr. Zeller, a copy of whose letter I inclosed to your Excellency in my despatch of July 12, 1871.‡

The important district of the Belka, whose chef-lieu is Nablus, one of the most turbulent of Syrian towns, is under the well-known Kurdish Chief, Mohammed Said Pasha Shanadin. This officer, who owes all his promotion to Rashid Pasha, is a man

* Inclosure 2 in No. 42. † Inclosure 1 in No. 35. ‡ Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

of great wealth and influence. His only daughter is married to Mohammed Bey-el Yusuf, Governor of the Hauran. He can command at least 10,000 sabres in the city of Damascus and its environs, and therefore he has been created a Pasha.

Another Kurd, who lately was a Bashi-Buzouk, and who now commands the Hajj or Meccan Caravan, a very lucrative post, is Ahmed Agha Aizo, promoted to a Pashalik by Rashid Pasha. The Ottoman Government, knowing the perfidy and the violence of its Kurdish subjects, has hitherto made a rule of not raising them to high distinction. Rashid Pasha has departed from this wise precedent, and the popular voice declares that he does so because he looks forward to benefit by their unscrupulous partizanship.

The emoluments attached to the Hajj were transferred, in 1869, from Shahh Findi el Faiz, of the Beni Saka, to Mohammed Dutchi, Sheikh of the great Anizah clan, Wuld Ali. The latter is a man of the worst character; to the rapacity and other vices of the Bedawi, he adds the craft and the *savoir faire* of the citizen. His chief merit is his readiness to commit any crime; he can also bring into the field some 3,000 lances of his own; and, if time be allowed him to intrigue amongst the Anizeh, he would probably swell the number to 30,000.

In order to invest his adherents with greater prestige, Rashid Pasha has, it is said, proposed and succeeded in raising all the Mutasarrifs to the rank of Pasha. This move is wholly in his own favour, and, in case of a rise in Syria, his influence would be paramount.

I can supply, if it be deemed necessary, a list of the Great Tribunals of Appeal that sit at Damascus. It will show that amongst them there is not one member who pretends to moderate independence. At present, indeed, these Majlises may be said not to exist. A message from Rashid Pasha to the President, conveyed by Subjat Effendi, is of more avail than a Firman of the Sublime Porte, and justice is paralyzed throughout the town.

The Syrian police is wholly in the hands of the Mir Alai Mustafa Bey, an officer whose exceeding bigotry prevents his being decently civil to any Christian. His second in command, Ismail Agha, an active and intelligent officer, lately died under highly suspicious circumstances. The British Consulate at Damascus is bounded on the west by a house of dubious fame, belonging to a Turkish woman, who is intimate with the Governor-General's harem, and the latter, to the great scandal of the city, returned her visits. Ismail Agha detected this person in a shameless intrigue. He was dismissed with disgrace, and he presently died. His place has been taken by the Simbashi Abdullah Agha, who emulates the fanaticism of his Chief. The Yuzbashi, Serur Agha, a very useful officer, remains unemployed. He is hated by Mustafa Bey because in 1860 he saved a Christian boy from being made a slave in his Colonel's house, and because he is looked upon as a friend to the British Consulate. The police arrangements are deplorable throughout the Province, and the Government pay for thirty where, perhaps, ten men are employed. The people complain that crime has never been so general, and, under the circumstances, we cannot be surprised.

This state of things in Syria results directly from the Consuls-General residing at Beyrout, and not at Damascus, the head-quarters of the Vilayet. Instead of exercising due supervision over political matters they are relegated from the centre to the edge of the Province. The Consuls-General are unable to obtain anything like correct information, and some, indeed, have never visited Damascus. Thus they are entirely dependent upon their dragomans, and they never see Rashid Pasha, except when he visits the harbour town for recreation. Of course, the Ottoman authorities highly approve of an arrangement which reduces European influence and legitimate Consular interference to the lowest expression.

A report has lately been spread that the Vilayet of Syria will be divided into three. The northernmost will consist of the present Mutasarriflik of Zor on the Euphrates, to which will be added the rich and fertile districts about James and Hamah. The central will be the heart of the present Province, and the southern will be represented by the harbour town from Sidra (Sur) to Gaza (Ghuzzie) with Jerusalem for head-quarters. This project is highly to be commended for many reasons, especially because it tends to preserve the unity of the Ottoman Empire. It renders concerted action in favour of Russia impossible, and it will prevent Syria from siding as a strong and united power with Egypt, should the latter have the temerity to strike a blow for independence.

There are two main reasons which compel Russia to take a vital interest in this corner of Asia. The first is the pilgrimage to the Holy City, which, through the Greek Church, moves the world from Finland to Abyssinia. The second is the

unwillingness of the Great Northern Empire to see Syria become the highway of British India.

Such, your Excellency, is the present condition of Syria, which, situated as it is in proximity to Egypt, and united with the latter by political sympathies and by ancient interests, ought never to have been subjected to the dangerous and unscrupulous autocracy of Rashid Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 49.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July* 17, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Damascus, July* 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to lay the following circumstances before your Excellency, hoping to be favoured with your orders as to the course of action which Her Majesty's Government would wish me to pursue in a matter which is evidently of the greatest gravity.

The mal-administration of Syria during the last five years, especially the last two of Rashid Pasha's Government, is causing a revival of Christianity: hence the Moslem is the only subject of the Porte who has no defender unless his purse be well lined. The so-called "Greek" Christians are backed, especially at the present time, by Russian influence and gold. The Latins receive support from their ecclesiastics and from the Catholic Consulates; until the late war they were strenuously aided by France. The Protestants and the Druses look to England for that help and sympathy which her policy has wisely extended to them. The Jews either obtain the protection of foreign passports, or they rely upon the influence of their co-religionists throughout the civilized world. But the Moslem Rayyah cannot look to any of these sources for aid; plundered, crushed, starved, and driven to despair by taxes and imposts, and by the exactions of rapacious Government officials, who are ever being changed, and who are never satiated, he has at length learned to envy the privileges enjoyed by the various Christian sects, such as immunity from conscription, and facilities of obtaining the justice which he cannot expect. El Islam will not help him—Christianity will.

As long as the present mal-administration keeps the people starving and discontented, so long will this movement, now that it has made a start, continue to gain influence; and, if freedom be allowed to it, it is hard to foresee where it may end. I am at present unprepared to supply a full and exhaustive Report upon the subject. Much of my information, though to all appearance reliable, must be verified by me in person before I can vouch for its truth; yet I have thought it my duty to lay before your Excellency this outline of a revival which is working under the surface of society, and of the causes which have brought it about, in order that no time may be lost in preparing for its development.

The revival dates from 1860, when a private soldier, then named Ahmed-es-Sabar, and now Issa, became a Christian, and when—notwithstanding the proclamation of religious liberty to converts by the Hatt-i-Sherif of Gul-khanah, and the confirmation by the Firman of February 12, 1856—he was imprisoned and loaded with chains. According to his own account, he saw visions of the Saviour, and he was favoured with various revelations; his fetters fell off, and his jailors did not attempt to replace them. When released, he was joined by twenty to thirty Moslems of the Shadili Order of Dervishes. Of these men, twelve were arrested, and summarily deported, without formal trial, to Tripoli and Murzuk, whilst their wives and children, then

numbering sixty-two, and now fifty-three, were left to starve in Damascus. As usual, persecution increased the number of converts, who, though secretly baptised, have succeeded in concealing their change of faith. Now, however, the disappearance of Said el Hamawi; the case of Haj Hasan; the hanging of Arif Effendi (the neophyte Eustathios); and the report that the son of a Kadi (Judge), whose name I have not yet discovered, has been put to death at Damascus, would seem to show that the Government, which is here the Governor-General, has become aware of the movement, and is trying to nip it in the bud. It is too far advanced, by this time, for such treatment. I have spoken to some of the principal converts in the city of Damascus, and they declare that at the end of 1869 the total of males who had turned from El Islam was 500, that in 1870 the number had risen to 4,000 souls, and that the present amount may be 5,000. Moreover, that not only in the city, but even amongst the Bedawi of the Eastern country, and amongst the fellahs of the Bukáa (Cœlesyria), the revival is progressing. Regarding the latter place, a case in point has just now fallen under my personal notice, although it was unknown to the Damascus converts. The villagers of Buwarij, a hamlet on the eastern slope of Mount Lebanon, having, through the non-interference, or rather the connivance, of the Government, been despoiled of their houses, their lands, and, in fact, of all their property, came to this capital, and sent me word that they were prepared to become Protestants.

It is plain that the present is no common matter of conversion. If steps be not taken by the Governments of Europe to prevent the Treaty and the Firman becoming dead letters, religious persecution will become rampant; and this persecution, carried one step too far by the Turkish authorities, will undoubtedly cause a repetition of the fearful scenes of 1860.

Regarding this revival of Christianity in the gravest light, I am the more anxious to be favoured with your Excellency's directions as to my future proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Damascus, July* 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 5th instant, a letter from the heads of the Jewish Community at Tiberias was put into my hands. This document renewed a complaint previously made, namely, that the Governor-General of Syria had sold to M. Nilfon, Greek Bishop of Nazareth, a synagogue and a cemetery belonging to the Jews of Tiberias. Many of these persons are protected British subjects, and they have procured the testimony of eight Moslem witnesses to prove that the vault containing the synagogue has been in their hands during the last 400 years.

When at Tiberias in March and May, 1871, I protested strongly against this sale to the local authorities. On receiving the letter from the Jews I at once (July 6) brought the affair to the notice of the Governor-General, Rashid Pasha, and a private note (July 13) informed me in reply that the "Authorities were occupying themselves with this question." I need hardly add that the Authorities are himself.

It will now become evident to your Excellency why the Greeks of Nazareth are so hostile to me; why the Greek Bishop so strongly opposed justice, even writing to suborn and to pay four Moslem witnesses, and why he was energetically supported by the Governor-General. The ground has been taken from the Jews for the purpose of building a Greco-Russian convent and hospice, and thus that sect will add another and a valuable item to its actual possessions, the oak of Abraham near Hebron, Mount Tabor, and Jacob's Well near Nablous (Shechem). I venture to hope that your Excellency will support me in resisting this injustice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Damascus, July* 17, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to bring the following circumstances to your Excellency's notice:—

M. Hanna Azar, Dragoman of this Consulate, having reported to me (July 12) that certain friendly villagers had warned him that his life was threatened by a tribe of Bedawi bandits, known as the Ghiyas, I addressed on the same day a despatch to the Governor-General, applying for the personal protection of M. Azar, who is proprietor of two villages in the Merj district, near Damascus, and who is obliged periodically to visit them on business. Up to this date no answer has been returned.

M. Azar's village "Suwaydah" was lately plundered by the Ghiyas, as I reported in the list of British claims appended to my despatch No. 17 of July 4, 1871." The same bandits made another raid on July 8, and on this occasion, when speaking to the peasantry of Dhumeir, they threatened M. Azar's life.

The Governor-General has long regarded with dislike this employé of the British Consulate. In 1869, about seven months before I took up my appointment, M. Azar, in presence of Mr. Acting-Consul Charles Wood, produced a document signed by Rashid Pasha, when the latter had denied having signed it. Since that time Rashid Pasha has never lost the least opportunity of injuring M. Azar, and of applying indirectly to me for his removal from the Consulate. I always replied that some offence must be brought home to a Consular Dragoman before he can be dismissed: and as the Governor-General only insisted the more, it presently became evident to me that he was trying, as his custom is, whether I was less likely to be pliant than others.

Still there was no reason to find fault with M. Azar, whose services became more valuable when Rashid Pasha began to intrigue for my recall. At last I absolutely refused to entertain the idea any longer. It need hardly be remarked that had M. Azar been dismissed from his office, he would at once have been ruined, and that his Consulate would have acquired that reputation for subservicncy which Rashid Pasha desired to affix to it.

The Government of Damascus is answerable for every action of the Shiyas' plunders. The latter have, since many months, given hostages, and are held to be submitted; no outrage like that to which I have above alluded can, therefore, be committed without the connivance of the authorities.

The last report at Damascus is, that the Governor-General has ordered the purchase of 500 mules, and that 200 are already collected. This step shows that a hostile movement is in contemplation, but I cannot yet determine whether the Druses or the Arab tribes of the Druse Mountain, whose raids have become insufferable, be the object proposed. The silence of his Excellency, and his delay in replying to my letter about M. Azar, perhaps suggests the latter. I shall not fail to supply your Excellency with all the information which I can gather.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 50.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(Separate.)
Damascus, July 21, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a testimonial lately presented to me at Damascus.

Your Lordship will have received my statements concerning the religious revival in Syria, and you will have appreciated the extreme gravity of the situation.

Should I be compelled to quit Damascus before the proposed visit of the Papal Nuncio and of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the effect may be fatal to the cause of the converts, and may lead to disturbances whose length can hardly be estimated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 50.

The Rev. E. B. Frankel and others to Consul Burton.

Damascus, July 12, 1871.

Sir:

WE beg to tender to you our heartiest thanks for your prompt decisive action in the case of Hassan, the converted Moslem, and also to congratulate you on the result of your determination and firmness.

* Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

For some time we had heard that a Moslem convert to Protestantism, at Beyrout, had been subjected to considerable persecution. A convert, more obscure than himself, had been put out of the way, and had not been heard of, and Hassan had been subjected to a series of arrests and imprisonments, and had several times narrowly escaped assassination. The Chief Consulates had, however, become publicly interested in him, so that his safety from legal execution seem ensured; and as he was always accompanied by some one to protect him from assassins he seemed for the time to be safe.

But on the 29th June we were surprised to find that he was being transported to Damascus, having been arrested and bound in chains.

The English colony at Beyrout became alarmed, as they declared that none so transported ever returned again. Two agents of the missions were dispatched from Beyrout; one preceding the prisoner, to give us information as to what has taken place, and the other accompanying the prisoner to watch what became of him.

On receiving intelligence of the convert's transportation to this city, the missionaries of the three missions at Damascus resolved to lay the case before you, but on doing so found that you had, with your usual energy, already taken up the case and categorically demanded the release of the prisoner. And though the authorities ignored the Firman granting civil and religous liberty to the people of the Empire, and denied your rights to interfere on behalf of the prisoner, the unflinching stand you took by the concessions of the hatti-sherif, secured the release of the prisoner.

You have thus vindicated the cause of humanity, for on the day on which the prisoner escaped, through your intervention, the Moslem authorities strangled, in the Great Mosque, in Damascus, a Moslem convert to Christianity. The man had made application to the Irish-American Mission for protection, and declared that he lived in daily fear of strangulation. He was imprisoned in the Grand Mosque, and strangled, as they say, by John the Baptist, and then carried away by one man and thrown into a hole, like a dog. This act proves that your uncompromising firmness with the authorities was an act of force merely, and that the worst apprehensions of the Beyrout missionaries were not unfounded.

But, more important still, you have asserted the binding character of the spiritual privileges of the Christian subjects of the Porte, contained in the Firman of 1856, and which, according to Fuad Pasha's letter to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe "comprises absolutely all proselytes."

We are sure, sir, that your conduct in this affair will receive the unqualified approbation of the best public opinion in Christendom, and we have no doubt it will receive, as it merits, the warm approval of your own Government.

We, who were near and anxious spectators of the proceedings in this affair, cannot too warmly express our sense of the satisfaction with which we witnessed the fearless, firm, and efficient manner in which you conducted the important case until the convert was permitted to leave this city.

(Signed) E. B. FRANKEL, *Missionary of the London Missionary Society.*
JAMES ORR SCOTT, M.A., *Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church.*
FANNY JAMES, *Lady Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools, Damascus.*
WILLIAM WRIGHT, A.B., *Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church at Damascus.*
JOHN CRAWFORD, *Missionary of the United Presbyterian Church of North America at Damascus.*

No. 51.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(Separate.)
Damascus, July 21, 1871.

My Lord,

ON Saturday, July 8, I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 1, of June 14, 1871, containing these words:—

"I am to add that his Lordship wishes that from the time of receipt of this despatch until further instructions reach you, you should not quit the seat of your Consulate, the city of Damascus."

At the time of reading this despatch my family and myself were suffering from the excessive heat, and from the unusually sickly season of Damascus. The Greeks of

Nazareth had been suffered to return home, in order that their *procès-verbal* might be revised and terminated. The Consular corps and the Presbyterian missionaries had been gone for some time. Convinced that I had done nothing to incur your Lordship's displeasure, and feeling certain that when the truth came before you, you would not expect me to consider myself under a kind of arrest at my Consulate in the hot and fetid air of a Damascus July, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, requesting permission to proceed to my summer quarters. I should here explain that the British Consuls in this country have, since the establishment of the Consulates, kept two houses, one in the city and the other within easy ride of four or five hours; and that messengers constantly ply between the two.

After waiting two days in vain for an answer from Constantinople, I was compelled, on the 19th instant, with the view of avoiding serious illness, to comply with the advice of my medical man, and to transfer myself to summer-quarters at Bebdun. A copy of his certificate shall, if it be judged necessary, at once be forwarded to your Lordship. I trust that this step will not be viewed in any other light but as an act of necessity, and that the explanations forwarded to your Lordship will explain the surprise and the mortification experienced by me when I found that the transparent machinations of the Governor-General of Syria had been successful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 52.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 28.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 21, 1871.*

I HAVE been informed that great exception has been taken to my not having reported at once to your Lordship the assault upon my servants at Nazareth, and that this omission has been looked upon as an omission of duty. I have, therefore, the honour to lay this statement before you.

Nazareth is not connected by telegraph with the rest of the Province, and even had it been, the state of the telegraph-office is such that my telegram must have come before the Governor-General, who would, probably, have tampered with it. The Post-office is in the same condition, except that letters are not tampered with, but destroyed. I was not, at the time, aware of the extent of Rashid Pasha's animus against me; and looking upon the assault as a village disturbance, I thought that it would easily be settled by the punishment of the offenders at Damascus. All around me were of the same opinion. No one imagined that the affair would be used as a manœuvre to satisfy private revenge. Arrived at the capital of Syria, I was again delayed by wishing to obtain the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Taylor and his fellow travellers before submitting the case to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have reported the unjust action taken by the local Government in the defence of the Nazareth people. And unless your Lordship allow me to see justice done to myself by remaining at Damascus till the case be determined in my favour, or by appealing to Constantinople, if justice be withheld, I shall not only sustain the greatest possible injury, but also the unworthy intrigues of Rashid Pasha, such as sending, two days after my arrival, a telegram to Constantinople, endorsing every Greek fiction as fact, will completely triumph. I need hardly say that the English name will suffer throughout Syria even more than I shall myself.

I am also informed that my expedition to the Hauran was not desired to take place. I again venture to solicit your Lordship's attention to the fact that this journey had been proposed at least a year and a-half ago by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge and myself. Moreover, that before setting out I spoke of it when visiting Rashid Pasha, who did not offer the least objection. His report to Constantinople was the most transparent effort to rid himself of a man who has opposed his unjust and rapacious measures, and the secret of his hostility will be found in the 6,000,000 piastres which I claim from him in liquidation of British creditors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 53.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 24, 1871.*

HAVING been informed non-officially that it is in contemplation to reduce Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus,—in fact, to make it a second class appointment,—I am induced to submit the following lines to your superior judgment.

The capital of Syria, owing to increased wealth, to the influx of population, and to the establishment of majlises, which make it their head-quarters, has doubled its prices in the last fifteen years. House-rent is now 60*l.* to 80*l.* per annum, and it must soon rise to 100*l.* A Consular Dragoman will, in the present day, spend some 300 to 350 napoleons a-year, where his father lived as well upon 120.

An underpaid Consul, who cannot afford from his private means an outlay equal to his official income, will now occupy a false position at the residence of the Governor-General, of the Grand Courts of Appeal, and of the other high officials. And this is precisely what is desired by that Ottoman party which hates European influence because it is an obstacle to their freedom of mal-administration. Its one great object is to keep the Consulates-General relegated to the port of Beyrout and on the edge, as opposed to the centre, of the Vilayet, to a place of minimum political importance never visited by the Governor-General, except when making holiday.

With the second-class Consulate transferred to Beyrout—a harbour town comparatively inexpensive because no establishment need be maintained—an underpaid official would be removed from the many temptations that would beset his path at Damascus. The transfer of the Consulates-General and the Vice-Consulate to the capital is a step which, as every resident in Syria well knows, has long been called for by European interests. It will, perhaps, be distasteful to the Consuls-General, who find Beyrout a safe and civilized dwelling-place in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea, and of the "mountain" (Lebanon). These functionaries—of course I do not include my immediate superior—have lately been using all their interest to establish at Damascus Vice-Consuls, subject to themselves. Thus they have prepared a measure at once most agreeable to the local authorities, whose jealousy of European influence is ever on the increase, and fatal to the beneficial influence which Europe ought to exercise upon Syria.

A dozen years ago the Consuls-General might plead that at Damascus they would be separated by two days of rough riding from the seaboard, and consequently from free and regular communication with the Home authorities. Now all is changed. There is a telegram office which sends messages in European languages; there is a post-office which will presently learn to forward correspondence unviolated; and there is a day-coach throughout the year, with a night omnibus in the hot season. No plausible reason at present exists for the Consul-General to reside at Beyrout, except his personal convenience, and no public servant will allow any weight to such a consideration. Many of the Consuls-General may feel inclined to urge objections against being transferred to Damascus; but should the Representative of Great Britain be directed to make the capital his head-quarters, all will be compelled at once to do the same, under pain of injuring the interests of their Governments.

In the days when the French road did not exist, a cause for placing the Consuls-General at Beyrout was found in the fact that they were also accredited to the Governor of the Lebanon, as well as to the Governor-General of Syria. But the former functionary now transacts business not at Beyrout, which belongs to Damascus, but at Bahdeh during the winter, and in the summer at Ibteddin, a place far less accessible from Beyrout than Damascus is. A second-class Consulate could do all that is wanted with the Governor of the Lebanon, which is a Mutasarrifilik (Department), not a vilayet (province). Finally, the distances are so inconsiderable that the Consul-General could at all times reach Bahdeh in twelve hours and Ibteddin in twenty-four hours from Damascus.

The present, I venture to submit, is the moment when Syria claims increased attention from England. The Euphrates Valley Railroad, after having been discussed since 1845, has now come before a Committee of the House of Commons. It will be opposed by the Government of Syria secretly, but with all its strength; and the opposition of the local authorities will be supported by the Sublime Porte and by Russia. These two Powers are the last to desire an English highway from the Levant to the Euphrates. And without the most energetic action on our part they will inevitably be successful.

The first step requisite to clear the way for a Euphrates Valley Railroad is to

increase our Consular establishment in Syria and Palestine, a step which has already been taken by France, Russia, Austria, and even Persia. They have placed Representatives at all the most important points, a secure method of extending legitimate European influence, by bringing to light and checking the malpractices, the peculation, and the abuse of justice which eat into the prosperity of the province. The measure is generally unpopular with the Consuls-General and Consuls, because it always adds to their correspondence, and it occasionally causes trouble with the local authorities. Such considerations need hardly be noticed.

I have the honour respectfully to submit the following plan for extending our Consular jurisdiction throughout Syria and Palestine; and I would invite your Lordship's attention to the fact that it will not require an increase of expenditure.

The Consular corps of Great Britain is at present represented by a Consul-General at Beyrout; by Consuls at Damascus and Jerusalem; by unpaid Vice-Consuls at Latakia, Tripoli, Sidon, and Jaffa; and by Consular Agents at the port of Tripoli, and at St. Jean d'Acre.

The Vice-Consulates and the Consular Agencies might be left *in statu quo* until vacated by the actual holders. They should then be replaced by unpaid Consular Dragomans—a step which might at once be taken to advantage—chosen from the wealthiest and the most influential natives; and Protestants, who in many towns are rising to distinction, should be especially preferred. There is nothing derogatory in the title of Consular Dragoman, which the French Foreign Office confers upon some of its most respectable employés.

The solid gain of the change would be, that whereas in choosing a Vice-Consul or a Consular Agent we are now compelled by Treaty to take a non-subject of the Porte, and thus are often unable, as at the important centres of Hums and Hamah, to find suitable persons who are not already employed by other nations, we can bestow temporary protection upon any Ottoman subject, and make him a Consular Dragoman. The only objection which might be offered is, that the number of Dragomans attached to the Consulate-General, the two Consulates, the four Vice-Consulates, and the two Consular Agencies, is limited by the Regulations to four, three, and two respectively. These, however, form a total of twenty-three, and the list is never filled up. The Consul-General, for instance, employs only two; the Consul of Jerusalem, one. Moreover, this is a minor matter which can easily be settled. The Russian Consul (General?) at Damascus is allowed an unlimited number.

The Consular Dragomans should be permitted to fly their flags without expecting a salute, which at the inland ports cannot be returned, and they should be restricted to an establishment consisting of one interpreter (sous-dragoman or élève dragoman), and two kawwas or janissaries. They should communicate through their Consuls with the Consul-General, and the latter should visit them in person, or, if unable himself to make the tour of inspection, by deputy, at least once every two years. This is a precaution of such importance that Her Majesty's Foreign Office would be justified in defraying the actual travelling expenses of the Consul-General.

The places where Consular Dragomans are required are:—

1. Hums.
2. Hamah.
3. Baalbek and the northern Bukaa (Cœlesyria).
4. Zahleh. Here there is a Protestant School (on the eastern slope of the Lebanon and the southern Bukaa).
5. Safet, which has a large colony of Jews under British protection.
6. Tiberias, also with a Jewish Colony.
7. Nazareth, where there is a Protestant Mission and a School that urgently want protection, this being a turbulent town.
8. Nablus, also the seat of a Protestant School, and, like Nazareth, a turbulent place.
9. Tyre, a port again rising to distinction.
10. Salt, the chief lieu of the Balka, where an English clergyman is actually residing.

Hums and Hamah might, if judged proper, be placed under a single Consular Dragoman. It will, however, be far better to station an official at each of these great centres, in view of the immense changes which will be introduced to their vicinity by the newly-established Vilayet of Zor, by the settlement of Bedawi, and by the Circassian colonization.

Thus Syria will again be made to feel British influence—an influence which, of late years, has so declined that the Consular Dragoman of 1850 had more authority than the Consul of 1871. The Province will, by this measure, be prepared for an event that

shall give her new life, the laying down of the Euphrates Valley Railroad. Thus, too, we shall counterbalance the present preponderating influence of Russia, whose progress through the Greek Church is rapid and sure, and we shall give to Protestantism that support which in Syria and Palestine it so much needs.

That the local Government, as now constituted, will offer the sturdiest opposition to a change which tends to establish British interests, political, commercial, and social, upon the soundest footing, my own personal knowledge of its policy does not permit me to doubt. But the opposition will be factious and destitute of reasonable cause; it must therefore succumb to the first serious effort on the part of Her Majesty's Government. My acquaintance with the province, derived not by hearsay but from travel and actual inspection, will enable me to submit—if required to do so—a list of persons best suited for the post of Consular Dragomans, and however your Lordship may see fit to dispose of me, I wish nothing more than to see carried out the measures which I have ventured to propose for the welfare of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 54.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 9.)

(No. 10.)
Damascus, June 18, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 4 of June 6, 1871,* and to reply to it paragraph by paragraph.

I deeply regret that my Report of the assault at Nazareth was not sent to you before; the delay, as has been explained, arose from the dangers of the Turkish post, and from a desire to forward the case in a complete form.

Until the last few days I have been expecting a personal visit, with a written apology, from the Bishop of Nazareth. He began with an attempt to suborn four Moslem witnesses, unhappily not one of them was in Nazareth at the time when he proposed that they should perjure themselves—a copy of his letter from St. Jean d'Acre was duly forwarded to me. At Damascus he has openly admitted the untruth of his statements, declaring that he was compelled to make them by his flock, who forbade him to return unless he would carry them through the affair harmless. He has limited his danger from personal violence and his fear that his followers would turn Protestants.

Since the date of my last despatch, however, the Bishop of Nazareth has been encouraged at the Serai to withdraw all offers of conciliation, and I have been compelled to urge a trial upon the local authorities. Your Excellency may be pleased to hear that my proceedings have been thoroughly approved by his Eminence the Greek Patriarch of Damascus; and I have reason to think that the same is the case with his Excellency the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem. The latter is said to have written me a friendly letter, but the document has not been suffered to reach me.

The youth Habil Jemayel (aged 22), seeing Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake likely to be severely injured by a stone, fired a shot high over the assailant's head, and did good service by preventing that gentleman from receiving a dangerous wound. I then took the revolver from him, and as three stones had struck me, though partially sheltered by a tree, I fired also in the air. Many men, it may be asserted, when exposed to be brained by a Syrian fellah, would have shot the aggressor. Not one of our assailants, however, was wounded, even by a stone. And had not the pistol been at hand, one or both of us might have been killed; so reckless and infuriated was the mob urged on by their priests and elders.

The same lad, Habil Jemayel, in October, 1870, seeing his mistress threatened by a similar mob at the Zebdani village, and in dread of their violence, was drawing a pistol, when five or six men seized his arms, and the pistol went off in the struggle without injury to anyone.

The ringleaders of the riot were severely punished by the authorities, and not one complained against the youth. I pay more than usual attention in this part of the world to the bearing of my followers, and lately I dismissed one of them for speaking roughly to a priest. It may be mentioned that one of the men most severely beaten at Nazareth was my cook, a Greek rayah, and that since my return to Damascus, he has been tampered with and begged to give false witness.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

When the rioters were arrested, confronted with my people, recognized, and duly committed for trial, I dispatched a special messenger to Rushdi Effendi, Governor of St. Jean d'Acre, requesting that at least two of the ringleaders might be sent in irons to Damascus. I offered to telegraph to his Excellency the Governor-General, but Rushdi Effendi did so himself, and the men were forwarded accordingly. At the time two of my men were lying severely wounded, one of them spitting blood, as can be proved by the medical certificate of Dr. Varton, Nazareth Mission. A third, the Kawas Mohammed, an Affghan and an English subject, who served in India and in the Crimea, sustained a severe injury, and since that time his life has been despaired of.

The other ten prisoners were marched down in cords to St. Jean d'Acre; where, I am informed, the richest of them were at once allowed to go almost free. Two of those identified as having joined in the affray have not yet appeared. Jirjus Azam, a wealthy man, remains at St. Jean d'Acre, whilst Usuf Shalhuph escaped from Nazareth. This was reported by me (20th May) to his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria, but no reply has hitherto been received. The fact is, his Excellency has skilfully converted a village riot into a question of religion and politics.

The success of his projects can hardly be brought about except by siding with the so-called Greek Rayahs, whom he hates; and he would the more willingly place me in a false position, as the field would thus be cleared of one obstacle. This assertion, I believe, embodies the general opinion throughout Syria.

Your Excellency will have received the depositions of Englishmen, who all testify to the fact of my having shown, under somewhat trying circumstances, coolness and moderation.

During the four years which I passed in the Benzils, the Argentine Republic, Chile, Peru, and Paraguay, often travelling through the wildest parts of somewhat lawless regions, I cannot call to mind having had a single dispute. In Syria, however, party feeling carries everything before it. The mere fact of my having prevented Monsignor Nilfon, Bishop of Nazareth, from seizing ground which belongs to the Jews of Tiberias, under the protection of Great Britain, was enough to place me in complete antagonism with him, and, through him, with his turbulent and fanatical "flock."

I may conclude with asserting that, during my twenty months' residence at Damascus, I have laboured incessantly to promote justice and conciliation, with a due regard for our national dignity. An English colonist, long settled in the country, writes to me, "We are very proud of the affair at Nazareth; the English in Syria are looking up at last."

Travellers who have lately passed through Nazareth (Miss Fullerton and Mr. Cunninghame Graham) can answer for the respect with which they are now treated. I hold documents from nearly every race or creed in Syria, and, amongst others, from the Greek and Latin Patriarchs of Damascus, showing that they consider me their friend, and look forward to my assistance in case of disturbances. The Jewish protégés of Damascus who, last year, forwarded complaints against me to Her Majesty's Foreign Office, are proposing to draw up an apology in writing, and to own that they were wholly in the wrong. The Jews of Safet and Tiberias have applied, I am told, to the home authorities, with a view of being placed under this Consulate. I am equally on good terms with the Druses, the Metawili, the Nusayri, and all other sections of the Moslem community. Those only wish me ill who are jealous of me, or are restrained, by my knowledge of the country and Eastern character, and by my insight into their plans, from carrying out the objects of their ambition, and from the unjust and corrupt measures which are now, especially under the present Administration, the curse of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 85. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1871.

YOUR Excellency will have received from Captain Burton a copy of his despatch to me No. 8 of the 11th ultimo,* and I have now to request that you will furnish me with such observations as you may have to offer on the statements contained in that despatch with regard to the misunderstanding between him and the Governor-General

* No. 48.

of Syria, and the merits of the case as regards the late occurrences, with reference to which complaint has been made against Captain Burton.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1871.

IN case this despatch should reach Syria before your departure from that country, I am directed by Earl Granville, in acknowledging the receipt of your despatches to the 25th ultimo, to state to you that these papers do not induce his Lordship to alter the decision conveyed to you in his despatch No. 3 of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 57.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August :)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus (City), July* 26, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 2 of June 23, calling upon me immediately to explain why I had not reported to your Lordship the assault made upon myself and my people at Nazareth.

Having already furnished the explanation in my despatch No. 28 of July 21,* I have only to regret that any delay was suffered to occur, as such delay might be subject to misconstruction. Suffering from the hot and sickly season at Damascus, I was unable to give the office that supervision which was desirable, and thus the copy of my despatch of June 18,† addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, was not forwarded to your Lordship till July 25.

I have already explained to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the cause of the delay in reporting the assault to him; and I have the honour once more to assure your Lordship that the affair would have presented no grave aspect had not the bad will of the Governor-General, Rashid Pacha, converted a village riot into a political and racial dispute. Such things have happened to almost every traveller who has seen much of Syria, from the Rev. Mr. Porter to the Rev. Dr. Tristram, and will be found duly recorded in their books. Usually the authorities have no difficulty in punishing the rioters.

It has reached me through a private source that the Governor-General has found fault with my conduct generally for encroaching upon the domain of the local authorities, and for assuming a position inimical to their interests, by making myself their rival. This I emphatically deny. Such a proceeding would be, on my part, an error of judgment of which I am incapable.

The Governor-General is bound to show categorically where, when, and how I have in any way exceeded the bounds of legitimate Consular interference in Turkey. This he cannot do. I have, it is true, opposed his unceasing efforts to annihilate the due influence of this Consulate, as he has done that of all others at Damascus. I have advocated the rights which he has withheld from British protected subjects; I have extended the usual semi-official aid to the Druses whom he wishes to ruin, and I have taken, in the causes of religious toleration and missionary schools, a stand which has hitherto been productive of the best results against the Governor-General's open violation of Treaties. That such a line of conduct should be offensive to his Excellency Rashid Pasha I have no reason to doubt. But, convinced that I have in no way exceeded my powers as Her Majesty's Consul for Damascus I look forward, without fear, to the support of my Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

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* No. 52. † No. 54.

No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 100. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 6*, 1871.

IN a separate despatch to your Lordship of the 21st ultimo Captain Burton states that he had telegraphed to me for permission to proceed to his summer quarters, near Damascus, and that after waiting ten days in vain for an answer he had been compelled to do so.

If Captain Burton had received instructions from your Lordship which made such a request necessary, it was his duty to inform me of it at the same time that he asked for permission to leave Damascus; but he himself made no application to me on the subject.

The only telegram I received was the one herewith inclosed in copy from Mrs. Burton, to which I did not at once reply; for although I was not aware of your Lordship having prohibited Captain Burton from leaving Damascus, I was convinced that there was something which had been kept back from me; and I felt, moreover, some hesitation in returning any answer to a request which, if made at all, should have come direct from the Consul.

However, I finally returned the answer herewith inclosed, which I confined to a general statement of there being nothing in the regulations to prevent a Consul from living in summer at a short distance from his usual residence without special leave.

I have, &c,

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Mrs. Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphié.) *Beyrout, July 10*, 1871.

KINDLY telegraph permission for Captain Burton to go to summer quarters, four hours' ride from Damascus. All other Consuls gone long ago; the whole household ill from excessive heat.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to Mrs. Burton.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 20*, 1871.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th, there is nothing in the regulations of the service to prevent a Consul going a few hours' distance from his usual residence without special leave.

No. 59.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, August 11*, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at the Sublime Porte, relative to the refusal of the Governor-General of Syria, to recognize any longer Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August 11*, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria, complaining of the conduct of Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

On several previous occasions the misconduct of Mr. Azar has been mentioned to me both by the Wali and others. I believe Mr. Wood, while Acting Consul, found it necessary to suspend him until the arrival of Captain Burton.

As the appointment of Dragomans to Consulates depends upon the incumbents of the posts themselves, I do not consider myself authorized to interfere in the matter further than referring it to your Excellency, and in this sense I have answered the note of Rashid Pasha.

I have furnished Captain Burton with a copy of the Governor-General's note, and have suggested to him, for the sake of preserving good relations with the local authorities, the expediency of suspending Mr. Azar from his functions at least until the charges brought against him have been investigated by Captain Burton.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Rashid Pasha to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Damas, le 9 Août*, 1871.

UNE des causes principales de la mésintelligence qui a éclaté entre M. Burton et moi, c'est sans contredit M. Hanna Azar, un des drogmans indigènes au service du Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique à Damas.

Vers la fin de son séjour à Damas, M. Rogers, convaincu de la duplicité de Hanna Azar, avait fini par lui retirer sa confiance et ne le chargeait plus d'aucune affaire. M. Wood dans son bon sens comprit aussitôt que Hanna Azar était une pierre de scandale entre l'autorité et le Consulat, mais il ne voulut point servir contre cet employé infidèle, n'étant qu'intérimaire lui-même. M. Kennedy, informé lui-même d'un pareil état de choses aussi déplorable, promit de faire changer Hanna Azar, mais l'importance des occupations de M. l'Inspecteur a fait qu'il n'a pas songé à s'occuper de cette affaire.

Enfin j'ai eu plus d'une fois l'occasion de me plaindre à M. Burton de la conduite de Hanna Azar, lui faisant observer que cet employé ne croyait pouvoir mieux faire ses affaires que lorsque la discorde régnerait entre nous. J'ajouterais en outre que Hanna Azar de tout temps par ses intrigues en ville, par les faux bruits qu'il répandait, il donna à entendre que la sécurité et la tranquillité publique étaient menacés. Il faisait partout entrevoir le péril que les Chrétiens couraient et le spectre de nouveaux malheurs. Rien ne fit. M. Burton garda quand même M. Azar: il lui défendit seulement de se présenter devant moi, et voici à quelle occasion.

L'année dernière, lorsqu'une rixe éclata sur le passage de Mme. Burton allant à l'Eglise de Zibdani, plusieurs individus furent arrêtés. Mme. Burton ayant elle-même reconnu l'innocence des détenus allait demander leur mise en liberté. Que fit Hanna Azar? Il s'empresse de demander de l'argent aux prisonniers, leur promettant la liberté. Ce que M. le Consul ayant su, au lieu de renvoyer un drogman dont la perversité morale était incontestable, il se contenta de lui défendre de se présenter devant moi.

En revanche Azar hante les tribunaux du matin au soir, se charge d'affaires suspectes étrangères au Consulat, fait de faux rapports au Consul, qu'il excite et qu'il irrite, maltraite les membres, leur en impose, s'abritant derrière l'impunité que lui assure son titre, pressure les habitants des tribus et des villages voisins de sa propriété, leur intente des procès sans fondement pour des dévastations chimériques, leur réclame des sommes importantes à titre d'indemnité pour des dégats imaginaires, et finit même par les accuser de vouloir attenter à ses jours.

Azar par son ingérence continu auprès de l'autorité a fini par soulever contre lui les clameurs de tous les tribunaux et de tous les bureaux du Vilayet et du Mutessariflik. Jusqu'à ce jour je calmai les tribunaux du Mutessariflik, et j'ai conseillai la patience à ceux du Vilayet. Cette patience aussi a été épuisée. Un cri unanime

s'élève contre cet homme qui brave nos lois et toutes les convenances. J'ai longtemps temporisé, je ne saurai plus prolonger ma longanimité: prévoyant qu'un incident fâcheux ne peut manquer de surgir, vu la position que j'occupe et la responsabilité qui incombe sur moi, j'ai été forcé de donner l'ordre à ce que Hanna Azar ne soit plus reçu comme drogman auprès de l'autorité.

Votre expérience des affaires acquise dans une série de longs travaux, l'esprit de justice et de droiture qui vous distingue, la connaissance que vous avez de ce qu'un drogman peut faire lorsqu'il est mauvais, vous feront approuver, j'en suis convaincu, la mesure extrême que la force des choses m'a forcé de prendre. L'autorité n'a aucune espèce de confiance en M. Hanna Azar, et quand bien même M. Burton viendrait à être remplacé, Hanna Azar est de nature à créer de nouveaux embarras au Consul, nouveau venu, et à l'autorité.

Vous désirez sans doute comme moi que la bonne entente règne entre le Consulat de Damas et le Vilayet. Elle est impossible tant que Hanna Azar subsistera comme drogman. C'est un obstacle à la paix et à la concorde. Ma conscience me dit que je devais le supprimer, et c'est ce que j'ai fait.

Le Consul de Damas a d'autres interprètes; ses affaires ne souffriront pas, d'autant plus que Hanna Azar ne se chargeait point d'une affaire pour la mener à bonne fin, mais pour en envelopper le cours d'un réseau de difficultés, de malentendus, et de complications.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RACHID.

No. 60.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August* 14, 1871.

I HAD the honour to receive on the 12th instant Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 19 of the 24th ultimo, transmitting to me, under flying seal, a despatch addressed by your Lordship to Mr. Consul Burton, informing him that you consider it imperative that he should be relieved from the duties belonging to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

In pursuance of Mr. Odo Russell's instructions to me to appoint, without delay, some fit person to carry on the duties of the Consulate until some further arrangements shall have been come to, I have the honour to report that I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Jago to proceed to Damascus to take charge of Her Majesty's Consulate there as Acting Consul.

Mr. Jago will leave for Damascus either this evening or to-morrow, conveying your Lordship's despatch, which I have instructed him to deliver personally to Captain Burton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 109. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 24, 1871.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's commercial despatch No. 85, directing me to make any observations that I might have to offer upon the statements contained in Captain Burton's despatch No. 8, of the 11th of July, in regard to the misunderstanding between him and the Governor-General of Syria.

Your Lordship is already aware, from my previous correspondence, that I never doubted there being great exaggeration in the account of Captain Burton's proceedings at Nazareth, but if he complains that an *ex parte* version of the affray had been received against him, it is to be remembered that he himself made no report whatever on the subject till I officially called upon him for it, the explanations of the delay subsequently given being altogether insufficient and contradictory.

While in a private letter, the reason of the affray not being reported to me, was

stated to be, "that the honest truth was, that village rows are common to every one here who goes out of his house, and no one takes any notice of them," it is described in Captain Burton's despatch to your Lordship No. 8 and in his other Reports, as something much more serious than a mere "village row." Nevertheless, scarcely an hour before your Lordship's despatch, to which I am now replying, reached my hands I had been representing to Server Effendi the necessity of a searching investigation of the occurrence, to be followed by the punishment of any persons who had taken part in the assault upon Her Majesty's Consul.

I said that, as far as could be gathered from the testimony of Mr. Drake and others, the conduct of the Greeks had been outrageous, and the removal of Captain Burton from the Consulate of Damascus was not to be held as a reason for allowing those who had attacked him to escape.

Server Effendi promised me that he would desire that the case should be strictly inquired into, and that there should be no disposition to shield any person who had misconducted themselves.

Your Lordship will perceive from the language I had been holding to Server Effendi that it does not appear to me that the charge which had been made against Captain Burton in regard to the Nazareth affair has, up to the present time, been established, but that it is, on the contrary, due to him and to the post he then held that there should be an inquiry to ascertain whether he was not the victim of a wanton assault.

I have already, by my despatch to your Lordship No. 79 of the 26th June, conveyed my observations with respect to the complaints of the Porte of the general proceedings of Captain Burton, and I regret that it is not possible for me to state that I look upon those complaints as unfounded.

Captain Burton's antecedents made his position a delicate one, and rendered prudence and discretion unusually imperative upon him, and in these qualities he has certainly shown himself eminently deficient.

His last visit to the Hauran, and his letter to the Chiefs, without communication with the Ottoman authorities, could not fail to excite the suspicions of a Governor-General with whom he was already on bad terms, or to give rise to misinterpretations from various quarters; and the assertion that the journey was undertaken with the concurrence or knowledge of Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout is emphatically contradicted by Mr. Eldridge.

If Captain Burton had limited his action to pointing out the abuses in the administration which he considered to require remedying, he might have effected much good; but when he came to be regarded as a power to which the disaffected might look for support, his position became a dangerous one.

Your Lordship will have been struck, in Captain Burton's correspondence, by the importance which he attaches to the maintenance of what he calls the British influence in Syria; but I would submit that it is not desirable to endeavour to maintain that influence by allowing our Consular Agents to adopt an attitude of rivalry towards the legitimate authorities who are responsible for the administration of the country.

I have endeavoured, as far as was practicable, to gather from independent sources the opinions which have been formed in Syria with regard to Captain Burton, and I cannot be blind to the unanimity with which he is blamed even by those who consider him to have been actuated by a generous wish to support those whom he looks upon as oppressed; but he may be held to be disqualified for the post of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus without it being necessary to assume him to entertain all the hostile designs attributed to him by the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 62.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus, August* 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the copy of a letter addressed to me by his Eminence the Greek Patriarch of Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 62.

The Greek Patriarch at Damascus to Consul Burton.

(Traduction.)

Monasterie Balamand, le 26 Juillet, 1871.

M. le Consul,

AVEC grand plaisir nous avons reçu votre chère missive du 24 Juillet, par laquelle nous apprenons que votre Seigneurie nous a adressé une précédente lettre nous parlant de l'affaire de Nazareth, laquelle lettre ne nous est pas malheureusement parvenu jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est, et nous ne savons pas où elle peut être perdue.

Nous nous empressons maintenant de répondre à votre estimée lettre que nous avons devant les yeux. Nous vous remercions, de tout le cœur, pour les sentiments de sincérité et de véritable affection que vous nous tenez vous priant de vous assurer que ces sentiments mêmes nous les avons pour votre honorable personne; conséquemment nous ne doutons pas qu'ils ne se changent point par les affaires de Nazareth, quel que soit leur fin. Tout du contraire nous nous assurons bien que votre Seigneurie, doué des principes de vérité et de la sublime justice qui sont des qualités des Anglais, nous feude la main d'aide, si précieuse lorsque nos besoins la demandent de quoi. Nous vous adressons nos rémercièments en implorant au Seigneur ardemment pour la santé et la prospérité de votre Seigneurie en toute choso.

Vous priant d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) TROTIE, *Patriarche d'Antioche.*

No. 63.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 4.)

(Separate.)

Damascus, August 14, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of four despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople, Nos. 29, 30, 31 and 32 of August 8 and 9, 1871.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 29.)

Damascus, August 8, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Excellency's information, the following Report, soliciting your attention to the gravity of the case contained in it:—

Yesterday Ali Tabor, on the part of the Shaykh and the peasantry generally of the Berwarish village, brought me a petition, signed by four heads of families. The gist of the document is as follows:—

"Your servants, having a hearty desire to become Protestants, beg to be placed under your honourable protection. We have hitherto concealed our intentions for fear of the Government taking severe measures against us. Now, however, we beg that you will take our case into consideration, and afford us that protection that your Government has never withheld from such petitions."

I have referred the particulars to the Rev. William Wright, of this city, and I have informed him that no further steps can be taken in the matter until your Excellency's decision shall be made known to me. Meanwhile I venture to assure your Excellency that the local authorities in Syria can always, if prepared to act with equity and energy, protect such converts from the fanaticism of their co-religionists. If the head of the Executive be made personally answerable for all infractions of the Treaty, which grants liberty of conscience to every subject of the Porte, the bugbear of fanaticism will be laid for ever.

The Moslems are fanatic, but they are also timid, and they dare not proceed to acts of violence without the sanction of the authorities; whilst the latter oppose conversion simply upon the material grounds that by it they lose so many subjects who are *taillable et corvéable à merci.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 30.)

Damascus, August 8, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in consequence of cholera morbus being reported at Baghdad and Aleppo, the local Government has resolved to establish a *cordon sanitaire* to the east of this city.

On the evening of the 6th instant, Dr. Bagini, the Sanitary Officer, accompanied by 200 Nizam and some irregulars, set out for the Khan Kusayr, a place four hours' ride (15 miles) eastward of Damascus, and the chosen point of quarantine for caravans from the east. The Bedawi, who brings the British mail from Baghdad, will be conducted by Khawajah Yakub Smoukas, Post Office Accountant, to Khan Kusayr, without being allowed to enter any of the villages; the bags will there be fumigated, and be conveyed to Damascus for transmisson to Beyrout.

The extreme impurity of this city, far exceeding that of Buenos Ayres, and the immoderate consumption of fruit by the poor after a winter of semi-starvation, make me fear that Damascus may suffer from the disease in the course of the coming winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 31.)

Damascus, August 9, 1871.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following particulars:—

Having protested, in the name of the British-protected Jews of Tiberias, against the illegal sale of ground containing a synagogue and a cemetery, which they had proved to have been their property for centuries, I received on July 13 a note, marked "particulière," from his Excellency Rashid Pasha, informing me that the case had been submitted to the local tribunals.

On August 2, after allowing a reasonable time to elapse, and wishing to reassure the Jews of Tiberias, whose many letters showed that they expected the worst results, I requested M. Awadys, dragoman of this Consulate, to wait upon the Governor-General and to request an official answer to my despatch. The result may be given in the words of M. Awadys:—

"Hier [August 2] je me suis présenté chez son Excellence le Wali, pour lui demander une réponse relative à l'affaire de la synagogue de Tiberias. Le Wali m'a dit avec un ton irrité, 'J'ai déjà répondu à M. le Consul sur le propos en lui disant que je m'en occuperai; pourquoi donc revient-il sur la même question?' C'est probablement, je lui ai dit, pour en connaître le résultat. 'Mais je ne suis pas tenu,' m'a dit son Excellence, 'de rendre compte à M. le Consul sur mes affaires. Cette affaire regarde le Gouvernement du Vilayet, et nullement le Consulat d'Angleterre; il s'agit d'une question de terrain entre les sujets du Sultan. Le Consulat n'a rien à y voir. Dites à M. le Consul que je ne veux pas qu'il s'occupe de nos affaires; pourquoi les autres Consuls ne se mêlent-ils pas comme lui des affaires du Gouvernement? Est-ce qu'il a lui un Firman qui lui permet de se mêler des affaires du Vilayet?'"

I am well aware that Rashid Pasha has charged me with undue interference in public affairs which do not immediately interest this Consulate, and I take the opportunity of denying that such has ever been my practice, and of requesting that his Excellency may be invited to substantiate his charges or to undergo the usual penalty if he fail in so doing. The case in question directly concerns the dearest interests of British protected Jews, who have memorialized Sir Moses Montefiore and other influential members of their community upon the subject. Yet his Excellency does not hesitate to characterize my protest as undue interference in the affairs of his Government. From this specimen, his other charges, I venture to hope, may readily be understood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 32.)

Damascus, August 9, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the present Report in continuation of my despatch No. 18 of the 7th July.

In that despatch I had mentioned that his Excellency Rashid Pasha had named as his agent at Nazareth a certain Usman Bey Mardrum Bey. This notorious person bears the worst of characters. During the administration of Sulwati Pasha his name, with that of his brother, was registered at the Great Yahya Mosque of Damascus; all the notables of the place, and the members of the chief Tribunal, signed a Mazbatah, and swore upon Koran that these men and sundry others, convicted of gross malversation, should never again be employed under Government. Of course the impeachment has been openly disregarded by Rashid Pasha, and thus the trial of those who assaulted my people at Nazareth has ended in a manner which cannot be characterized except as disgraceful.

The trial commenced on the 23rd ultimo, when my Agents, Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, of St. Jean d'Acre, appeared for me. They report that Usman Bey at once refused to take down in writing all the evidence adduced by them, whilst he carefully registered all the false statements of the Greek community. They protested, July 29, 1871, to Rashid Effendi, the Governor of St. Jean d'Acre, against the illegal conduct of Rashid Pasha's Commissioner, and they demanded that the statement of both pursuer and defender should be in the *procès-verbal*. The Commissioner refused to accept the protest, and went so far as to hint that the wounds of my people had been received in a fight with one another, and that I had been hurt by a fall when travelling. This bold style of defence was readily adopted by the defendants, who answered, accordingly, to subsequent queries. The evidence of Dr. Varton, who treated my servants at Nazareth, was not admitted by the Tribunal. The Commissioner openly threatened all who testified against the assault, and imprisoned one Yusif el Khuri, a Maronite, who had deposed in my favour.

The result of this scandalous conduct was a Mazbatah issued by the Tribunal of Nazareth. This document certified, contrary to fact, that the Commissioners had not refused to accept in writing the evidence adduced by my agents. It also accepted, contrary to law, the verbal security of the Greek Bishop, Monsignor Nillon, and it released the thirteen accused.

The Governor of St. Jean d'Acre left Nazareth on the night of July 31. And on August 2 Usman Bey proceeded to Nablus.

The following extract from a letter by the Rev. John Zeller (August 2, 1871), will show what that gentleman thought of the proceedings which he witnessed:—"The investigation against the people who made the attack upon your party was suddenly broken off, and all the prisoners were set at liberty. The whole trial was, from the beginning, a wretched farce, and with this conclusion must necessarily produce the impression upon the population of Nazareth, that any outrage upon an Englishman, resident or traveller, can be committed without fear of punishment, as the Government will do its utmost to screen the offenders.

And Mr. Zeller proceeds to recount, in proof of his opinions, that the workmen employed upon the Protestant church at Nazareth were attacked by the people, and the works have consequently been suspended.

All foreigners resident in Syria will readily understand that the proceedings of Usman Bey were purely and simply the work of his Excellency Rashid Pasha. Anything more puerile than such a form of administering justice can hardly be imagined. The trial will form a fair measure of the capacity of the present Governor-General for administering such a province as Syria.

I propose, as soon as an official copy of the *procès-verbal* shall reach me, to appeal to the Chief Court of Appeal at Damascus, the Majlis Tamyiz el Hukuk.

My despatch of July 7 will prepare your Excellency for what will be the verdict of that Court. His Excellency Rashid Pasha is an independent Prince, and not to be controlled by Vizirial letters. And when justice shall be refused to me at Damascus I have the honour to request that I may be allowed to appeal at Constantinople.

I look confidently to the support of your Excellency, not only to secure my rights as a British subject, but also in the interest of our fellow countrymen who may be travelling through, or resident in Syria. And I firmly hope that I may be allowed to carry this case to its legitimate conclusion, and to show what passes for justice under the administration of this province.

His Excellency Rashid Pasha has applied with instance for my recall; it is evident that the sooner he is removed from Syria the better. At present he is one of the perils of the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 64.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 22. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, September 5, 1871.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 27, Consular, of the 14th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to convey to you his Lordship's approval of your having instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Jago to take over from Captain Burton the charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

Mr. Jago is authorized by Lord Granville to discharge the duties of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus pending further arrangements.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 65.

Extract from the "Standard" of September 7, 1871.

THREATENED TROUBLES IN SYRIA.

To the Editor of the "Standard."

Sir,

FOREWARNED will not be forearmed in this case, for the mischief is half done already by the actions of Her Majesty's Government.

I came to Syria in February last with a special mission from the Palestine Exploration Fund. I have since been travelling over the length and breadth of the land, and this, with several years' previous acquaintance with the East, enables me to see more of the real state of the country than falls to the lot of the ordinary tourist.

In the early spring I found Syria in an almost abnormal state of excitement, arising from many causes. That excitement has gone on increasing, chiefly for five reasons. 1. The injustice and rapacity of the Governor-General (Wali), Mohammed Rashad Pacha, who now misgoverns Syria. 2. The agitation kept up by Egypt, with whom Syria and its Governor sympathise only too strongly, and with whom they will act the moment opportunity offers. 3. The ruin of the peasantry, crushed by exorbitant taxes, starved by a bad season, and devoured by Jewish money-lenders. 4. The way in which the Wali pits sect against sect for his own political ends; and in this land, where party feeling runs so high, nothing is easier. And, 5. The strong Christian movement, none the less strong for being under the surface—this has already been noticed in some English papers.

There was but one man in Syria who both saw and protested against the many and glaring acts of injustice done by the Wali, and this was Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Damascus, Captain R. F. Burton, whom Her Majesty's Foreign Office have thought fit to remove, giving ear to the tale raised two years ago by certain missionaries and others that Moslem fanaticism was working against him. Knowing the people and the country as well as I do, I hesitate not one moment to say that this is a deliberate lie (and am ready to prove it such) invented by Captain Burton's enemies. Few men, if any, would have got on as well as he has with all classes here, Mohammedans and Metaweli, Greek Catholics and Syrians, Protestants and Latins. He visited and was visited by the religious Sheikhs, and especially by the Emir Abd-el-Kader of Algerine fame. This prince is looked upon as the leader of Mohammedan religion here. These facts are sufficient to show how false is the plea of Captain Burton's being unable to deal with Mohammedans on account of their fanaticism. Only to-day I have heard numbers of Moslems deplore his removal, which pleased but the Wali and his creatures, and a few Jews engaged in nefarious usury. I dwell upon these points, as I feel convinced that unless his successor be a man of his stamp—

which will be hard to find—he will sink to that state of subserviency to the Wali to which the Consuls of other nations at Damascus have sunk. They are weak and timid, and completely under the Wali. The English Consul was the only man of independence; but now that Syria is becoming of vital importance to us on account of the Euphrates Valley Railroad our name and *prestige* must go through Her Majesty's Government recalling, at the instigation of a Turkish pacha, the only man fit to represent Great Britain in Syria. The Wali, having succeeded by his vile intrigues in displacing one of the most efficient of Her Majesty's Consular Officers, will feel that there is no one to check his malpractices; the peasantry, sooner or later, must rise; the great Christian movement will be crushed, not without bloodshed, for the converts now number many thousands of resolute men of all classes, and we must be prepared for the worst. I venture to predict that before many months have passed the troubles of Syria will have drawn upon her the eyes of Europe, and when blood has been shed England will see the error she has committed in throwing her influence here to the dogs and obeying the wishes of Rashid Pasha.

(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

Damascus, August 16, 1871.

No. 66.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Damascus, August* 17, 1871.

YESTERDAY, upon the receipt of your despatch of July 22, 1871, I handed over the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to Mr. Acting Consul Jago, and I have made preparations for leaving Damascus to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 67.

Acting Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Damascus, August* 16, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that in obedience to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's instructions, I left Beyrout on the evening of the 14th to take charge of this Consulate. I arrived here yesterday morning, and finding Captain Burton absent at his summer residence I despatched a messenger to acquaint him with my arrival. On receipt of my communication Captain Burton started for this city, and on his arrival to-day immediately made over to me the archives of the Consulate.

I took the necessary measures to obtain my recognition by the local authorities, and have to-day, therefore, entered on my duties as Acting Consul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 68.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 106. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1871.

I HAVE received from Captain Burton copies of his despatches to your Excellency of the 8th and 9th ultimo.

I have to request that you will let the Porte clearly understand that the withdrawal of Captain Burton does not imply any diminution of interest on the part of Her Majesty's Government in the affairs of Syria.

With respect to the case of the Protestants of Bawarish and the synagogue at Tiberias, which form the subjects of two of Captain Burton's despatches, I have to request that your Excellency will say that Her Majesty's Government desire your good offices to be extended to effect promptly an equitable and satisfactory settlement of these matters, as well as of the various outstanding claims in which British interests are immediately concerned.

With regard to the inquiry into the disturbance at Nazareth, which forms the subject of Captain Burton's despatch of the 9th ultimo, if the matter is correctly reported therein, your Excellency will state that Her Majesty's Government must insist on the displacement of the officers who have so grossly failed in the performance of the investigation intrusted to them, as well as on the punishment of the offenders. Your Excellency will speak very seriously to the new Grand Vizier on this point, and say that Her Majesty's Government expect a searching inquiry to be instituted without delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 69.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 18.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, August* 19, 1871.

A LETTER from Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, dated August 11, informs me that a copy of the charges made against M. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate, Damascus, by his Excellency Mohammed Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople. I have replied to these charges, and I have the honour to report to your Lordship as follows:—

Rashid Pasha, one of the most corrupt men in the Turkish Empire, devotes some ten pages to an attack upon a Consular Dragoman. His despatch so teems with untruths that to explain them all would require a paper of almost equal length. I will, therefore, briefly dispose of a few of the most serious accusations.

It is entirely untrue that Mr. Consul Rogers ever withheld his confidence from M. Azar, who, after some five years' service, obtained from that office the most satisfactory testimonials. It is equally false that Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood looked upon M. Azar as a "stone of scandal;" had he done so, he would not, before his departure, have given this Dragoman the best of characters. Mr. Kennedy remained only a few days at Damascus, and if he heard of anything "deplorable" on the part of M. Azar it was from the Governor-General himself. Rashid Pasha asserts that he has more than once taken the opportunity of complaining to me against M. Azar. He used against him, it is true, all manner of private and irregular intercession, but until quite of late he never made an open and honest complaint in a public and official form. Knowing the Governor-General's personal antipathy to M. Azar, I suggested to the latter that on such occasions as visits, for instance, he had better absent himself. The "false reports" spread by M. Azar were not heard by nor reported to me, and if they related to the "perils of Christians" and to "reports of fresh misfortunes," it will not, I fear, be long before such reports will be justified. There was no "quarrel upon the occasion of my going to the church of Zildani." I was never there. During the riot in question, when my wife was insulted, I was, as the Governor-General well knows, at Damascus. My wife, after the prisoners had been, as she thought, sufficiently punished, interceded for them. The head of the family, Salih Bey (a family name, not a title), when examined by me touching any charges which he might have against M. Azar, swore upon the Koran he had none, and made a similar deposition before the chief tribunal at Damascus, called Tanyig el Hukuk el Vilayet.

M. Azar visited the tribunal only by my order. So far from being on bad terms with the members he is a favourite with all who dare to be his friends. He has, on more than one occasion, defended the dignity of his office, and he did right. In the days of Mr. Richard Wood and Colonel Rose (Lord Strathnairn) the Governor-General and the Mushir (Field Marshal Commanding) used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and would order for him pipes and coffee. Those times are changed. It is only lately that M. Jihan Abd el Nuri, Consular Dragoman to the Vice-Consulate of Greece in Damascus, was ignominiously and without reason turned out of Court, and of course his Vice-Consul did not dare to complain. No tribunal would act thus without the express order of the Governor-General but that is a part of his system.

I am personally satisfied that Rashid Pasha has, through the Ghiza Bedawi, threatened the life of M. Azar, and I am equally certain that the "imaginary plunder,"

attributed by his Excellency's instruments to "wild pigs," is a fact. This was reported by me to Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople. I did not, however, explain that these Ghiza plunderers, who are allowed almost every week to ride and harry the Damascus plain, have for some time past given hostages to the local Governor, and that consequently their raids, as all at Damascus know, are directed and controlled by the Governor-General.

Rashid Pasha has, perhaps, not exceeded his powers in forbidding the tribunal to admit M. Azar. He has dismissed, his friends assert, three Consuls, and he must find it an easy task to deal with a Consular Dragoman. But I hope, for the honour of the English name, that before Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus sanctions this perverse and illegal measure, it will give M. Azar a fair and open trial. M. Azar courts the freest investigation of the charges brought against him, and has no doubt that, if the proceedings be properly conducted, he will be found guiltless.

Rashid Pasha, after taking a step which ought to satisfy even his vindictive feelings, still pushes the law against M. Azar. The fact is, he wishes to take away British protection from, and turn to ruin, a Consular Dragoman who has dared to do his duty. As has been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, M. Azar, before I took charge at Damascus, convicted the Governor-General, in presence of Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood, of a wilful falsehood for interested purposes. Rashid Pasha has never forgiven him, and never will; he cannot be satisfied with anything short of ruining his enemy.

It remains only for me to deny explicitly that M. Azar has ever "irritated and excited" me against the present Governor-General of Syria. The latter's open refusal of redress to British protégés, and his opposition to all legitimate Consular influence, systematically displayed during the last twenty months, are sufficient to "irritate and excite" any public servant who would do his duty.

M. Azar is a man of good family and of sufficient means. His profession was that of a banker when he thought to improve his position by becoming Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus. Since 1865 he has given all his time to his duties without receiving a farthing of pay, and he has shown a zeal and an intelligence combined with a far rarer quality, an independent bearing, which have secured for him the hatred of the Governor-General. He is the only Dragoman who has a thorough knowledge of law and custom, and of the proceedings of the native tribunals, and during the last twenty months I have found his services invaluable. It remains only to be seen, now that I have been "replaced," whether a public servant of six years' standing will obtain a fair and impartial trial, or will be left to the fate prepared for him by a Governor-General who, like Rashid Pasha, abuses his high position and the confidence of his Government with the view of crushing all opposition. And should the latter succeed in carrying out his project, the only persons who will consent to act as Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate, or to any other Consulate at Damascus, will be simply the tool of the Governor-General, allowed freely to take bribes, and to indulge in any kind of malpractice as the price of betraying their employers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville. (*Received September* 19.)

(No. 112. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch received last night from Captain Burton respecting the trial of the persons engaged in the Nazareth riots, and complaining of the sentence of the tribunal of Nazareth having been confirmed at St. Jean d'Acre in the absence of his agents.

I am without information respecting the proceedings at the former place. Captain Burton having made no report to me about them.

Although, upon a correctional trial of Ottoman subjects, Captain Burton cannot have had a strict right to be represented, nevertheless, considering the extent to which he was himself implicated, an opportunity ought, in my opinion, to have been given to his agents to watch the case; and I inclose the copy of a telegram to Acting Consul Jago desiring him to see that the investigation is fair and impartial, if, as Captain Burton intimates, it is brought, on appeal, to Damascus.

Your Lordship will observe that, although Captain Burton complains that the Governor obliged the tribunal to confirm the sentence without allowing his agents to be present, those gentlemen, in their letter sent in corroboration of this statement, only say that the confirmation took place without their "knowledge or intervention," but the distinction is very great.

I have forwarded an extract of Messrs. Finzi and Barbour's letters to the Porte, in the Memorandum of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Separate.)
Sir, *Bagdad, August* 20, 1871.

IN continuation of my last Report concerning the case of Nazareth, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that my Agents, Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, of St. Jean d'Acre, report to me as follows:—

Rashdi Effendi, the Governor (Mutassarif) of St. Jean d'Acre, has obliged the Correctional Tribunal to confirm the sentence of the Tribunal of Nazareth without allowing my agents to be present. It condemned four paupers of Nazareth, and two of my servants, to the greater penalty, and two other Greek paupers to the minor penalty. My servants, after being assaulted and nearly killed are thus, without form of trial, found equally guilty with those who assaulted them and myself.

Having quitted Damascus, I have formally constituted my agent in the matter, Mr. C. H. Tyrwhitt Drake, my fellow-traveller and chief witness to the riot at Nazareth. He will, doubtless, as soon as officially provided with a copy of the decision arrived at, demand his right of appeal to Damascus, and I presume that he will be backed up by your Excellency.

I also hope that you will have no objection to my publishing, in English and French, the proceedings of these Turkish Tribunals, and to showing to the world what, under the Government of the infamous Rashid Pasha, passes for justice in Syria. And I warn your Excellency that unless this man, who so grossly abuses his high position and the confidence which he purchases from his Government be recalled, the English name in Syria will have suffered irreparable injury, whilst neither the lives nor liberties of our subjects or our protégés will be safe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Messrs. Finzi and Barbour to Consul Burton.

M. le Consul, *Acre, le 7 Août*, 1871.

A LA suite de notre dernière lettre du 3 du courant par poste Ottomane, nous nous empressons de vous dire que le Mutassarif d'Acre a réussi à obliger le Tribunal Correctionnel à confirmer la sentence du Tribunal de Nazareth jugeant que quatre pauvres gens de la nation Grecque de Nazareth, et deux de vos domestiques leur soit appliquée la peine majeure et deux de la sus dite catégorie de Nazareth soient condamnés à la peine mineure.

Cette confirmation du Tribunal Correctionnel d'Acre a eu lieu Samedi au soir, 5 du courant, c'est-à-dire, six jours après le jugement de Nazareth, sans notre connaissance ni intervention.

Veuillez prendre en considération, M. le Consul, que la réponse du Mutassarif à notre pli du 27 Juillet que nous lui adressames à Nazareth par l'entremise du courrier Franciscain est datée du 31 Juillet, en nous disant que le dit journal était de ramis chez et expédié au Wali à Damas, tandis que le dit journal partit pour Acre le même Mutassarif pour le faire, bon gré mal gré, corroborer du Tribunal Correctionnel d'Acre. Ce point S il suffit pour faire connaître que le jugement de Nazareth et la mission de Osman Meriam Bey n'était que l'exécution des ordres que le Wali de Damas avait

* *Sic in orig.*

préalablement donnés afin d'étouffer la vérité des faits, et l'Evêque Grec de Nazareth il avait connaissance depuis son départ de Damas de l'informal complot tramé à Damas par le Wali, ayant le dit Evêque, aussitôt arrivé à Acre, annoncée votre destitution.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) FINZI AND BARBOUR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to Acting Consul Jago.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 5, 1871.

THE sentence of the Tribunal at Acre on the persons concerned in the Nazareth affray is likely to be brought, on appeal, to Damascus.

You will in that case see that the investigation is full and impartial.

Inclosure 4 in No. 70.

Memorandum addressed to the Sublime Porte.

IT would appear from the letter, of which an extract is inclosed, from Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, Captain Burton's agents at Acre, that the investigation of the Nazareth affray is not being carried on as satisfactorily as I had hoped might be the case.

Captain Burton's agents ought to have been present when the matter was brought before the Correctional Tribunal at Acre.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 71.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20.)

(Separate.) 14, *Montague Place, Montague Square,*
My Lord, *September* 18, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report that, under orders conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 22nd July last, I at once embarked at Beyrout, and lost no time in returning to this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 117. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 9, 1871.

CAPTAIN BURTON forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch No 26 of the 17th of July,* and Mr. Consul-General Eldrige his of the 11th of August,† respecting the complaints of the Governor-General of Syria against Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Consular Dragomans at Damascus.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the reply of Mr. Eldridge to the inquiries I had addressed to him in reference to Mr. Azar, and of a further communication from Captain Burton upon the same subject.

The excessive violence of the latter, who speaks of Mr. Azar's life being threatened by the Governor-General's assassins, and of the raids of the plundering Arabs being directed by his Excellency, renders it difficult to deal satisfactorily with the case. I represented, however, to Server Effendi that, Captain Burton being now removed from Damascus, it would be desirable for the Governor-General to drop the complaint he has made against Mr. Azar, and his Excellency has already written to Rashid Pasha in this sense. In the despatch now transmitted to your Lordship Captain Burton

* Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

† Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

writes that Mr. Azar "has on more than one occasion defended the dignity of his office, and he did right.

"In the days of Mr. Richard Wood and Colonel Rose, when the English Government had some influence in Syria, the Governor-General and the Mushir used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and ordered for him pipes and coffee. Those days are now gone."

If I particularly call your Lordship's attention to these words, it is because I believe them to convey the true explanation of the attitude which the Porte complains of Captain Burton having assumed.

He did not understand that the days when Governors-General trembled before Consular Dragomans had passed, never, it is to be hoped, to return.

The struggle for direct influence or domination among the different foreign Representatives, which was carried on throughout the Empire previous to the Crimean War, has since that time been dropped by a tacit understanding, and no Governor-General would submit to the subserviency to a Consul which was common twenty years ago. Captain Burton fell into the error of endeavouring to recover for himself and for his Dragoman a position neither aimed at by his colleagues nor compatible with the altered state of affairs, and he naturally encountered the strenuous opposition of the Governor-General.

I have already informed your Lordship that the other Consuls at Damascus are far from taking the same view as Captain Burton with regard to Rashid Pasha; and the despatch, of which the copy is inclosed, records the estimation in which he was held by Acting Consul Wood, who declares that "it is but due to his Excellency to state that his high administrative talents, his successes in his expeditions, and the high sense of duty with which he endeavours to inspire his subordinates, have won for him the admiration of all; whilst his quiet and unassuming manner, his conciliatory disposition, and a sympathetic interest which he seems to evince for all who come in contact with him, have appealed powerfully to the affection of the people, who unanimously acknowledge him to be the best Governor they have had."

This despatch was written by Mr. Wood, who had the charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus, very shortly before Captain Burton's arrival, and offers a curious contrast to the descriptions given by the latter in his recent communications, which, whether there may be foundation for them or not, exhibit a personal and passionate hostility which would alone suffice to cause them to be received with caution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August* 23, 1871.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 6th instant, requesting me to inform you whether, in my opinion, there are grounds which would render it desirable to withdraw British protection from Mr. Hanna Misk.

In reply I have the honour to state that I know of no grounds that would render such a step desirable, but, on the contrary, I consider it would be most impolitic and unjust to deprive Mr. Misk of his protection after the services that he, his father, and other members of his family have rendered to Her Majesty's Government.

The circumstances under which Mr. Misk obtained British protection were set forth in a letter of Mr. R. Wood, transmitted by Mr. Consul-General Rogers in his despatch of the 26th December, 1867, and in your reply of the 2nd January, 1868, your Excellency would seem to concur in the justice of Mr. Misk's claims to protection.

With regard to the charges brought against Mr. Misk of intriguing to aid the Wali of Syria to destroy the international regulations under which Mount Lebanon is governed, I am not aware that at the present moment any attempts are being made to set aside these regulations, and I do not think it likely that such attempts could be made without their coming to my knowledge, though it is quite possible and natural that Rashid Pasha may have privately expressed his dissatisfaction that a portion of Syria surrounded by his Vilayet should be governed under a different and exceptional system from that which prevails in the rest of the Ottoman Empire.

I cannot say what opinions Mr. Misk may have expressed with regard to converts

to Christianity, but from my knowledge of him I can hardly suppose that he would have used the language attributed to him by Captain Burton.

For the present I should prefer not to report on the case of Mr. H. Azar until I have obtained further information on the subject; I can only say that when at Beyrout Rashid Pasha has frequently complained to me most bitterly respecting his conduct, but beyond speaking to Captain Burton I did not consider myself justified in interfering.

Captain Burton addressed to your Excellency from Beyrout a long despatch (of which I have been furnished with copy) respecting Mr. Azar, and I would remark on the concluding paragraph, in which Captain Burton speaks of the injustice of a public servant of six years' standing being dismissed without a trial, that that argument has much greater weight in the case of Mr. Misk, who from a mere lad has grown old in the service; and the services of his father, which Mr. Wood mentions as having continued for fifty-three years, ought, in my opinion, to be taken into account in considering the claims of Mr. Misk to British protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Separate.)

Beyrout, August 19, 1871.

Sir,

A LETTER from Mr. Consul Eldridge, dated August 11th, informing me that a copy of the charges made against Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate, Damascus, has been forwarded to your Excellency, I have the honour to supply the following particulars:—

Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, and one of the most corrupt men in the Turkish Empire, devoted some ten pages to an attack upon a Consulate Dragoman. The paper so teems with untruths that to show them all up would require an answer of almost equal prolixity; I will, however, briefly dispose of a few of the most serious.

It is a wicked falsehood that Mr. Consul Rogers ever withdrew his confidence from Mr. Azar, who, after some five years' service, obtained from that officer the most satisfactory testimonials. It is equally false that Mr. Wood looked upon Mr. Azar as a "stone of scandal;" had he done so he would not have given him before his departure the best of characters. Mr. Kennedy, in the first place, did not visit Damascus as an inspector; secondly he met Mr. Azar only once or twice, and if that officer heard of anything "deplorable," it was from the lips of the Governor-General himself.

Rashid Pasha asserts untruly that he has more than once taken the opportunity of complaining to me against Mr. Azar; he used against him all manner of private and irregular intercession, but until quite of late he never made an open and honest complaint in a public and official form.

Knowing the Governor-General's petty spite against Mr. Azar, I suggested to the latter that on such occasions as visits, for instance, he had better absent himself. The "false reports" spread by Mr. Azar were not heard by nor reported to me, and if they related to the "perils of Christians" and "spectres of fresh misfortunes," it will not, I fear, be long before his reports will be justified. There was no "quarrel upon the occasion of my going to the church of Zildani." I was never there once; during the riot in question, when my wife was insulted, I was, as the Governor-General well knows, at Damascus. My wife, after the prisoners had been, as she thought, sufficiently punished, interceded for them. The head of the family, Salih Bey (a family name, not a title), when examined by her touching any charges which he might have against Mr. Azar, swore upon the Koran that he had none, and made a similar deposition before the Chief Tribunal, called Tanyizel hukuk-el bilayit. "Incontestable proof" of Mr. Azar's "moral perversity." Mr. Azar visited the Tribunals only by my order; so far from being on bad terms with the members, he is a personal favourite with those who care to keep up friendly relations with him. He has, on more than one occasion, defended the dignity of his office, and he did right. In the days of Mr. Richard Wood and Colonel Rose (Lord Strathnairn) when the English Government had some influence in Syria, the Governor-General and the Mushir (Field-Marshal Commanding) used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and ordered for him pipes and coffee. Those days are now gone. It is only lately M. Jihan Abd el Nuri, Consular Dragoman to the Vice-Consulate of Greece, was turned out of the room without reason. No Tribunal would dare to act as they without the express order of the Governor-General, but that is a part of his system.

I am personally satisfied that Rashid Pasha has, through his assassins, the Ghiyas Bedawin, threatened the life of Mr. Azar, and I am equally certain that the "imaginary plunder," attributed by his Excellency's instruments to "wild pigs," is a solid and concrete fact. The whole affair was at once placed by me before your Excellency. I did not, however, add that these Ghiyas plunderers, who are allowed every week to ride and harry the Damascus Plain, have for some time past given hostages to the local Government, and that, consequently, as all at Damascus know, their raids are directed by the Serai.

The Governor-General has, perhaps, not exceeded the limits of his powers in forbidding the Tribunals to admit Mr. Azar. He has dismissed three Consuls, and he must find it an easy task to deal with a Consular Dragoman. But I hope, for the honour of the English name, that before Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus sanctions this perverse and illegal measure it will give Mr. Azar a fair and open trial, instead of seeing the "expediency of suspending him from his functions of Dragoman." Mr. Azar courts the just investigations of the charges brought against him, and I have no doubt that, if the proceedings are fairly conducted, he will be found guiltless.

Rashid Pasha, after taking a step which ought to satisfy his revenge, still pushes the case against Mr. Azar. The fact is, he is resolved to ruin a Consular Dragoman who has dared to do his duty.

As has been reported to your Excellency, Mr. Azar, before I took charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus, convicted the Governor-General, in presence of Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood, of a wilful falsehood for interested purposes. Rashid Pasha, true to the Turkish instinct, has never forgiven him, and never will. He will be satisfied with nothing short of ruining his enemy. The nature of the "longanimity" of which he speaks is well known to every one in Syria. It remains only for me to deny explicitly that Mr. Azar has ever "irritated and excited" me against the Governor-General of Syria. The open refusal of redress to British protégés, and the opposition to all legitimate Consular interference systematically displayed during the last twenty months, are sufficient to "irritate and excite" any honest man.

Mr. Azar is a man of good family, and of sufficient means. His profession was that of a banker, when, in an evil hour, he thought to improve his position by becoming Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus. Since 1865 he has given all his time to his duties without receiving a farthing of pay; and he has shown a zeal and intelligence combined with a far rarer quality, an independent bearing, which has secured for him the hatred of the Governor-General. He is the only Dragoman in Her Majesty's Consulate, Damascus, who has a thorough knowledge of law and custom and of the proceedings of the native Tribunals. During the last twenty months I have found his services invaluable. It remains only to be seen, now that I have been "replaced," whether a public servant of six years' standing will obtain a fair and impartial trial or will be left to the fate prepared for him by a Governor-General like Rashid Pasha, who abuses his high position and the confidence of his Government with the object of crushing all opposition. And should this corrupt and unworthy man succeed in carrying out his projects, the only persons who will consent to act as Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate, or any other Consulate at Damascus, will be simply the tools of the Governor-General, allowed freely to take bribes, and to indulge in every kind of malpractice as the price of betraying their employers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Acting Consul Wood to Sir H. Elliot.

Damascus, June 16, 1869.

Sir,

THERE is an idea prevailing throughout the vilayet that Rashid Pasha, on his arrival at Constantinople, will be called upon to fill a higher and more important post, notwithstanding that his Excellency has given assurances of his speedy return.

The inhabitants of Damascus, acting upon this idea, and unwilling that his Excellency should leave the country without some public acknowledgment of their sincere regard and respect for him, have given a banquet in his honour.

It is the first time that this city has given a public testimony of its esteem to its Chief Magistrate, and the first time also that this mode of expressing it has been adopted.

With the exception of the exclusion of wine, expressly forbidden by Mahomedan law, it was surprising to see how European fashion, in all its details, entirely superseded the mode of arrangement that would have been adopted here for such an occasion, thus adding a further proof that the influence of European civilization has made itself felt in a city which boasts of its Conservative spirit.

The Representatives of the foreign Powers, the heads of all the religious communities, as well as the principal officials and inhabitants of Damascus, were invited, amounting, in all, to 170 guests.

Two tables were set in a garden, which was illuminated with 2,000 lights.

Rashid Pasha presided over the first table, and the Mushir over the second.

Towards the end of the feast several speeches were made, chiefly in praise of the Governor-General; and it is due to him to state that his administrative talents, his successes in his expeditions, his high sense of duty with which he endeavours to inspire his subordinates, have won for him the admiration of all; whilst his quiet and unassuming manner, his conciliatory disposition, and a sympathetic interest he seems to evidence for all who come in contact with him, have appealed powerfully to the affection of the people, who unanimously acknowledge him to be the best Governor they have had.

Owing to a recent bereavement in my family I was unable to assist at this banquet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES WOOD.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 13, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I have received from Rashid Pasha, conveying his acknowledgments for the removal of Captain Burton from Damascus.

In my reply, of which a copy is likewise inclosed, I have abstained from entering into the complaints made against Captain Burton, and have based his removal upon the wish of Her Majesty's Government to see a cordial understanding maintained between the British Consular Agents and the Ottoman Authorities.

As Rashid Pasha, however, alluded to the affair of Nazareth, assuming the blame of it to have lain with Captain Burton, I have said that the details which have reached me do not confirm this view, and that I trust for him to see impartial justice shown on the trial of the accused.

I took the same opportunity of reminding him of the pending claims of the British protected subjects against the local Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Rashid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Damas, le* 24 *Août*, 1871.

JE m'empresse de vous remercier du rappel de M. Burton, ce qui est en même temps une preuve nouvelle de la haute bienveillance qu'il vous plait de me témoigner.

Vous ne sauriez croire combien je regrettais de ne pouvoir pas m'entendre avec un Agent de l'Angleterre, qui agissait contrairement à la politique et aux traditions de son pays. Et sous ce point de vue je ne crains pas de vous féliciter vous-même de la sage mesure que vous avez bien voulu prendre en faisant remplacer M. Burton. Je laisse de côté ma personne et mon administration, devenues l'objet constant d'odieuses attaques de la part de M. Burton, mais il était même de l'intérêt de votre Consulat à Damas à ce que l'ex-titulaire cessât de l'occuper. Ce Consulat, je suis navré de devoir le dire, était tombé dans un discrédit complet. Le Consul étant souvent en voyage, les affaires de ses administrés souffraient de ses absences. Les drogmans infidèles et pervers agissaient à leur guise tandis que M. Burton était partout excepté à sa Chancellerie. Le long de ses courses il semait les bruits les plus séditieux, témoin ceux qu'il répandit parmi les Druses; il créait des scènes désagréables comme celle qui mit en émoi tout

Nazareth. Entré à Damas, M. Burton, toujours hostile à tous et à tout, ne faisait que prédire des malheurs, représentait le pays sur un volcan, jetait l'alarme parmi les Chrétiens en évoquant le phantôme des évènements de 1860, se promenait toujours armé et faisait aussi marcher Madame Burton toujours armée, pour donner à entendre aux Chrétiens que leur sûreté était menacée. La présence de M. Burton était un danger permanent pour le pays; il ne rêvait que de massacres et révolutions, je crois dans le but de rencontrer une occasion où il se distinguerait en se rendant maître de la situation et en menant les évènements.

Pour les Musulmans autrement habitués à l'attitude et à la conduite des Consuls Anglais, Burton était une anomalie inexplicable et douloureuse. Les collègues de M. Burton le laissèrent se débattre seul sur un terrain aussi suspect. M. Eldridge était navré et effrayé des conséquences terribles que l'ex-Consul pourrait produire. On ne sait jamais préciser la limite où un homme comme Burton pourrait nous mener. Heureusement la tranquillité publique n'a pas été troublée un seul instant malgré le "Levant Herald." Burton dans ce moment est loin de nous; il ne nous a laissé en partant que la menace d'un pamphlet qu'il allait publier à Londres sur le gouvernement de Syrie. Madame Burton est encore ici pour effectuer la vente de ses effets; elle nous quittera bientôt aussi, j'espère, et si je n'ai pas plus longuement parlé d'elle, c'est par un sentiment de pur respect, toujours dû à une dame, sans quoi j'eusse été forcé de rappeler ce coup de pistolet qu'elle a fait tirer à Zebdany, par son domestique, sur un enfant Musulman qui ne s'était pas levé sur son passage.

M. Jago est venu prendre possession du Consulat. Ai-je besoin de dire que mes rapports avec lui sont déjà sur un pied excellent, et dans ma longue carrière je n'ai eu toujours qu'à me louer de mes relations officielles et amicales avec les Agents de Sa Majesté Britannique. Que dirai-je de vous même, M. l'Ambassadeur? Je n'oublierai jamais l'accueil plein de distinction que vous avez bien voulu me faire et la bienveillance dont vous m'honorez. Aussi c'est en vous priant de continuer d'étendre sur moi cette même bienveillance si hautement précieuse pour moi que, plein de gratitude, je suis heureux de profiter, &c.

(Signé) RACHID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to Rashid Pasha.

(Particulière.)
Excellence, *Therapia, le* 13 *Septembre*, 1871.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire le 26 Août dernier, et qui m'exprime votre satisfaction à la nouvelle du rappel de M. Burton.

Mon Gouvernement, qui met toujours un grand prix à maintenir la meilleure intelligence entre ses Agents Consulaires et les autorités Impériales, a vu qu'à Damas cet accord n'existait malheureusement pas, et s'est décidé à relever M. Burton de ses fonctions. Je me plais à espérer que dorénavant les relations entre le Konak et le Consulat reprendront leur cordialité première.

Je m'abstiens d'entrer ici dans les questions qui se sont élevées entre votre Excellence et M. Burton; mais comme elle fait allusion à l'évènement de Nazareth, et paraît rejeter tout le blâme sur M. Burton, je me permettrai seulement d'observer que les détails qui me sont parvenus jusqu'ici ne confirment en aucune façon la supposition que la rixe a été provoquée par lui.

L'examen définitif des prévenus doit bientôt avoir lieu à Damas même, et je sais que je puis compter sur votre Excellence pour qu'elle veille à ce que cet examen soit conduit d'une manière sérieuse et impartiale, et que les vrais auteurs de l'agression contre la personne d'un Consul Anglais soient puni selon leur degré de culpabilité.

Je profite de cette occasion pour rappeler au souvenir de votre Excellence les réclamations pendantes de plusieurs sujets ou protégés Anglais à la charge du Gouvernement local dont quelques unes sont d'une date assez reculée.

Comme il sera rigoureusement prescrit à M. Jago de ne jamais appuyer aucune de ces réclamations sans s'être préalablement assuré de leur justice, j'espère que celles qu'il vous présentera obtiendront la prompte attention qu'elles méritent.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 112. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1871.*

WITH reference to Captain Burton's despatch of the 19th of August, respecting the complaint against Mr. Hanna Azar, the substance of which has been communicated to your Excellency in a despatch of the same date,* I have to request that you will take care, in the event of the matter being pursued further, that the case is properly investigated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 75.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 23.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, Waterloo Place, September 22, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to record in writing what was stated by me yesterday to your Lordship. Already one attempt has been made upon the life of Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and I have no hesitation in attributing it to the action of the Governor-General of Damascus. Also the Rev. William Wright runs, I believe, considerable risk, and he intends, it is reported, to send his family home from Syria.

The only measure for securing the safety of these British subjects would be the recall of his Excellency Rashid Pasha, now Wali of Syria, an official whose vindictive feelings have no bounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 76.

Mr. Odo Russell to Sir H. Elliot.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1871.*

CALL upon Turkish authorities to take all required precautions to protect from danger Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, Mr. Wright, and all British subjects in Syria.

No. 77.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply I am to inform you that, immediately upon the receipt of the information you had given to him, he issued the necessary instructions for the safety of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake and Mr. Wright.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 78.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received October .)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, October 1, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hammond's despatch of September 27, 1871. The recall of the Governor-General, Mohammed Rashid Pasha, which has taken place since I addressed your Lordship, completely changes the state

* Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

† A similar telegram was addressed to Consul-General Eldridge.

of affairs in Syria; and if the precautionary measure of holding his creatures and dependents answerable for all the troubles which they foment, be carried into execution, the lives and property of British subjects will at length be safe.

I venture, however, to draw your Lordship's attention to the assault committed upon me and my servants at Nazareth. Three of them nearly died, and I still bear the mark of the blow received on May 5. My demand was, that the rioters be tried, and if found guilty, that they may be condemned to imprisonment, and a fine to be divided amongst my servants. The dismissal from office of Usman Bey Mardum Bey, representative of the late Governor-General and of Rushdi Effendi, Governor of St. John d'Acre, would now be a useful measure; both are men of infamous precedents, and both have on this occasion shamefully prevented the course of justice. Tourists and travellers in Galilee, especially about Nazareth, will find themselves in danger of insult and robbery, unless the assault be punished as it deserves to be.

I am, however, informed that Mr. Acting Consul Jago has thought it prudent to quit Damascus. And the persistent hostility displayed towards me, during the last year and a half, by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge renders me hopeless of obtaining justice unless direct orders are issued to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 79.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the accompanying extract from the "Globe" newspaper of the 7th instant, and I am to desire that you will report to his Lordship what foundation there is for the statement that Mr. Vice-Consul Jago has left Damascus, and if true, the reasons for his having done so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Extract from the "Globe" of October 7, 1871.

THE RECALL OF CAPTAIN BURTON.—A letter from Mr. E. H. Palmer, the celebrated Arabic scholar and explorer of Moab, appears in the "Civil Service Gazette." It supplies a few facts with reference to the recall of Captain Burton:—"The Consulate," he says, "was left in charge of Mr. Jago, who, however, was so alarmed at certain demonstrations of dissatisfaction on the part of the natives that he prudently took advantage of an opportune fever and left the town and the Consulate to take care of itself. The English Government is therefore entirely unrepresented in Damascus. The Kurds who inhabit the suburb of Damascus called the Salahiyeh, say that now Captain Burton is gone, there is no one who can protect them from the extortions of the Governor-General, and have notified their intention of leaving *en masse*. As they are about 10,000 fighting men they will not improve the pacific aspect of the country when they are let loose over it, feeling that they have no protector but their sword. The Mohammedans, whose fanatical aversion to Captain Burton is the ostensible pretext for his recall, have been holding mass meetings, and even praying publicly in the mosques that God will send him back to them. Letters are flowing in every day from village sheikhs and Bedouin chiefs, asking that he may return to Damascus, as there is no one else to whom they can appeal for help or succour. So strong is the feeling that Mrs. Burton was obliged to slip away secretly, as the people wished to retain her as a hostage in order to make sure that Captain Burton would go back to them. In addition to these facts, which I can vouch for, I can tell you that from my own experience of the country I feel sure that Captain Burton's absence will be a source of great inconvenience (to put it mildly) to intended travellers this next winter. If you have any friends who purpose visiting Syria you cannot do better than advise them not to do so, as there will assuredly be troubles before long."

No. 80.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(Separate.) 14, *Montague Place, Montague Square, London,*
My Lord, *October* 16, 1871.

I HAD the honour to acknowledge, simply and without comment, the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of August, 1871,* and according to your directions I returned to England with as little delay as possible. It becomes now my duty in a matter not only so serious of itself, but also so important as regards the public interests, to lay the whole case before your lordship from the time of my appointment to that of my recall. I confidently hope, from your Lordship's well known sense of justice, that it will be taken into your favourable consideration, and that my Consular career, especially at Damascus, will be found not undeserving of your approbation.

The appointment to Her Majesty's Consulate Damascus was conferred upon me by the then Right Honourable the Lord Stanley, in November 30, 1868. A rumour was at once spread abroad that the Moslems hated me because I had pilgrimaged to Meccah, and that my life would be placed in danger by their fanaticism. I have been confidentially assured, and throughout Syria it is universally believed, that the originators of the report were certain persons who, fearing lest I should set on foot an anti-missionary policy, and would, perhaps, favour Moslem against Christian, represented the peril of arousing Mohammadan bigotry by allowing me to take office. They knew, as well as I knew, that my main difficulty would be the expectations of the Moslems to be the most favoured party at the Consulate. The late Lord Clarendon could hardly help being impressed by these rumours coming from a source so respectable, and he forgot that after my pilgrimage to Meccah I had lived for years in Moslem communities: Arab, African, and Indian, still more fanatical than the Syrian, as the late murder of Mr. Justice Norman may show. I was, however, allowed to proceed to my post with the following proviso: "If," says the despatch, Separate, of June 19, 1869, "the feeling stated to exist against you on the part of the authorities and the people of Damascus should prevent the proper performance of your official duties, it will be his Lordship's duty immediately to recall you." My answer, June 21, 1869, was a direct denial that any such feeling existed, and a promise to act with more than usual circumspection.

Assuming my charge at Damascus on October 2, 1869, I met, as I fully expected, with the most flattering reception, and I reported, October 27, 1869, to Lord Clarendon that the chiefs of all parties, clerical as well as secular, had visited and welcomed me; even such men as the Shaykh Abdullah El-Halabi, who were considered too bigoted to enter the house of a European, and whose position forbade them to meet me at a hotel.

Having settled myself at the head-quarters of the Ottoman Government in Syria, I at once saw through the state of affairs. Your Lordship will doubtless have means of ascertaining the position held there by Great Britain, and you will probably concur with me that there is a legitimate influence which it should be the duty of every British functionary in the East to secure and to maintain. You will best know how much of our national prestige exists when I took charge of the Consulate of Damascus, and I may venture to assert that it has never been higher than at the time of my recall.

During my first year I gained some credit by impartiality, and by advocating honesty in a place "whose atmosphere" (to quote the words of a well-known traveller) "has the effect of denationalizing the English character and of taking from it its impatience of injustice and oppression."

I opposed the imprudent zeal of Mr. Mentor Mott, Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools; and in my despatches I duly reported his visits at the capital as dangerous to himself and to the Christian community. My next step, on the other hand, was a demand for the punishment of certain Druses who had plundered and maltreated Mr. Mackintosh, an English missionary; and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was pleased to approve of my proceedings. My next public duty, as your Lordship doubtless knows from my Reports, was that of curbing the rapacity of three native money-lenders enjoying British protection. This roused a storm of wrath which raged for some months, the case being made to assume a sort of religious aspect, from the fact of these persons belonging to the Jewish religion. Thus they obtained a support which they otherwise would not have done; although, as a rule, nothing can

* July: see No. 38.

be more dissimilar than the followers of Judaism at Damascus and their respected co-religionists of England, France, and Germany. But notwithstanding the fact of their straining every nerve for my recall they failed in so doing. I have reason to believe that your Lordship honoured my proceedings with your approval; but no communication to this effect reached me. Moreover, I had the mortification of ascertaining that my course of action in these three affairs was not consonant with the views of my immediate senior in Syria.

The circumstances which finally led to my recall date from the beginning of 1871. I was then weary of the succession of promises by word of mouth, in writing, and by telegram, with which the ex-Governor, Rashid Pasha, had met my just requisitions. I declared that it was my duty no longer to countenance delay in settling the claims of British subjects, amounting to about 6,000,000 piastres, and dating, in one case, as far back as 1863. I then proceeded to bring the most notorious and flagrant cases to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. Rashid Pasha hated nothing more than such references, and ever regarded and spoke of them as overt acts of hostile inclination. From that time I date his repeated attacks, intended, as is well known on the spot, to weary out the superior authorities at the capital, and to induce demands for my return. I need not specify to your Lordship the mode in which such intrigues are usually conducted throughout the Turkish dominions.

In May 1871 the Governor-General seized the opportunity of a village riot at Nazareth to take the part of the rioters, and to endorse their falsehoods by sending them in a telegram to Constantinople, three days before my return to Damascus, and before I could offer a word of explanation. His Report (May 16, 1871,) charged me with firing upon inoffensive people, and with sending in chains to Damascus sundry innocent persons, when he had himself issued the orders. His appeal was forwarded to the late Grand Vizier, Aali Pasha, under the circumstances usual in Syria, and that officer at once demanded my removal.

I exposed the untruths of the telegram, and I had the honour of laying before your Lordship the testimony of two clergymen of the Church of England, besides other English travellers who happened, fortunately, to be present, and who thus could testify to the moderation of my conduct under somewhat trying circumstances. The result, however, was a despatch from your Lordship (No. 1 of June 14, 1871), in which I was directed, until the receipt of further instructions, not to quit the seat of my Consulate, the city of Damascus. I need not say that I at once obeyed the order, notwithstanding the extreme heat and unhealthiness, until compelled by illness, and under medical certificate of the sanitary officer employed by the French Government, to follow the rest of the English colony to the mountains.

Rashid Pasha then affected to look upon a visit which I paid to the Hauran Mountains, within sight of Damascus, and included in the limits of that Consulate, as a movement pregnant with evils to his administration. I went, in pursuance of repeated invitations sent to me by the friendly Chiefs of Druse villages, who had applied for my interest in establishing an English school. Rashid Pasha at once forwarded to Constantinople a mis-translation of the letter which I addressed to my friends, thus converting an unimportant into a very serious matter. I therefore despatched a true translation to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, and I am bound to suppose that it reached Her Majesty's Foreign Office.

Your Lordship's despatch (No. 3 of July 22, 1871) recalled me, however, to England, upon the grounds that certain complaints had been made against me by the Ottoman Government; and it was thus virtually assumed that ill-feeling on the part of the authorities and the people of Damascus has prevented the proper discharge of my official duties.

The testimonials herewith presented will, I believe, satisfy your Lordship that during my entire service as Her Majesty's Consul for Damascus I have been guided by the strictest impartiality in the performance of my duty, and that my conduct has not only received, but has, I trust, merited the approbation and support of the most respectable residents of all religious and of every condition. During my ten and a half years of Consular service I have been stationed upon the West Coast of Africa, in the Brazils, and in Syria. My first three years were spent in the Bight of Biafra, where I was successful in my endeavours to procure justice for British subjects; and I may fairly boast that, contrary to all precedent, during the proceedings necessary in attaining this object I was not the cause of a single village being burnt or of a life being taken. Throughout my four years of service in the Brazils I never had a dispute or even a difference with the authorities; and I can confidently refer your Lordship to Her Majesty's Envoy, Mr. Buckley Mathew, C.B., for his opinion as regards the

esteem in which I was held, or for the mode in which I performed my duties. Finally, I may venture to assert that in Syria, where I inherited all the most trying and difficult cases from my predecessors, I have left a name which will not readily be forgotten.

Under the circumstances, my Lord, I cannot but express the deep pain with which I received the communication of your Lordship's recall. I venture to trust that the statements and the corroborative evidence which I have now the honour of submitting to you, will entirely remove the impression apparently made to my prejudice, and that I shall have no cause, personally, to regret the consequences of the unjustifiable and unprovoked attack made upon me and upon my servants at Nazareth, or the offensive and hostile steps taken against me by the ex-Governor-General, Rashid Pasha. And I feel it my duty to my fellow-countrymen to represent the serious consequences to travellers if such outrages remain unreproved.

I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship various testimonials wholly unsolicited by me, and only recently forwarded, after my departure from Damascus. They consist of letters and addresses each showing the sentiments of a tribe or community, or a village: from his Highness the Emir Abd-el-Kader, of Algerine fame; from their Eminences the Archbishop of the Syrian Catholics, the Bishop of the Greek Catholics, the Acting Patriarch of the Catholic Armenians of Damascus, and from the Superior of the Latin Convent at Nazareth; from the Presbyterian missionaries at Damascus (the Rev. Messrs. Wright and Scott); from the Rev. Mr. Zeller, of Nazareth; from Mr. Rattray, an English colonist of long standing in Syria; from three Druse chiefs Salim Beg Shams, Ali Bezel-Hammadeh, and Hammod Nofal; from the Belawi Shaykhs Mijwel-el-Mezrab and Abdool-Hâmed; from Shaykh Ahmad, chief inspector of the Great Amani mosque; from various other personages, and from no less than fourteen villages in the vicinity of our summer quarters. The names of the latter have not been inserted, owing to a report now current that Rashid Pasha has been successful at Constantinople, and is about to return to Damascus, where his vindictive character is greatly feared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Testimonials.

(1.)

ALLAH favour the days of your far-famed learning and prosper the excellence of your writing. O wader of the seas of knowledge, O cistern of learning of our globe, exalted above his age, whose exaltation is above the mountains of increase and our rising place, opener by his books of night and day, traveller by ship and foot and horse, one whom none can equal in travel.

To His Excellency Captain Burton.

But afterwards, verily, we wondered at the suddenness of your departure, and we deeply regretted our not being present in the city when you honoured us with your farewell visit, and truly this greatly affected us. But as the thing was to be, so we imagine that we had seen you from our personal friendship. This has been written and intrusted to the hands of your excellent Lady, manifesting our sorrow at your departure. We hope that you will keep a friendly remembrance of us as merit the excellencies of your qualities, of which the best is your zeal and devotion to the service of your country. We only hope that everything will turn out to you as happily as can be. It is our personal friendship to you which dictates this letter.

Your friend,
(Signed) ABD-EL-KADIR.

Danzig, Jemad-el-âni 22, A.H. 1288.

(2.)

Damas, le 15 Septembre, 1871.

M. le Consul,

C'EST avec surprise et regret que nous avons appris votre départ inattendu pour l'Angleterre; et cette surprise a été d'autant plus sensible qu'on avait répandu le bruit que vous alliez nous quitter pour toujours.

Probablement ces bruits proviennent de vos ennemis: mais quoi! à Damas vous n'aviez pas d'ennemis; tout le monde vous était ami. Vous étiez aimé, chéri, estimé, et presque adoré par toutes les classes de la société, même par les Musulmans; parce que vous étiez devenu le protecteur des opprimés et le défenseur de la justice. Vous aviez su, par votre complaisance et votre extrême délicatesse, capturer le cœur des honnêtes gens et réconcilier tous les intérêts. Il n'y avait que les gens pervers et corrompus qui se gênaient de votre présence et cherchaient votre éloignement. Les insensés! Ils ne veulent pas comprendre qu'en agissant de la sorte, ils ne font que suivre l'exemple des fils de Jacob, qui voulant empêcher Joseph de devenir Roi l'ont vendu à l'esclavage; et c'est précisément pour l'avoir rendu qu'il est devenu Roi; et ainsi ils ont été, sans le vouloir, l'instrument de la volonté divine.

Quoiqu'il en soit nous regrettons vivement votre départ et celui de Madame Burton, qui était devenue la Mère des Pauvres, et nous aimons à espérer que le sage et prévoyant Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne privera pas Damas d'un si digne Représentant qui a mérité dans le pays le titre glorieux "El Mousiakin" (homme impartial).

Ainsi nos yeux sont tournés vers vous, M. le Consul, nos vœux vous accompagnent, et nos sympathies vous suivent partout où vous serez. Nous prions le bon Dieu de vous combler de ses bénédictions, et de vous donner toutes sortes de prospérité et de bonheur.

Agréez, &c.
(Seal) FR. DOMINIQUE AISLA, *Président et Curé de la Terre Sainte.*
(Official Seal) JACOB GEOHARGI, *Vice-Général du Patriarche des Arméniens Catholiques.*
(Official Seal) JEAN, *Vice-Général du Patriarche Arménien Orthodoxe.*

A M. le Capitaine Richard Burton,
Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Damas,
actuellement à Londres.

(3.)

Damas, le 8 Septembre, 1871.

M. le Consul,

GRAND a été notre étonnement et profonds ont été nos regrets lorsque nous avons appris votre départ subit pour l'Angleterre. Et ce départ nous a été d'autant plus sensible qu'on a de suite répandu le bruit que vous ne reviendriez plus à Damas.

Ce sont probablement vos ennemis qui ont à dessein répandu cette fausse nouvelle. Mais quels ennemis? Vous ne deviez pas en avoir, puisque vous étiez aimé, chéri et estimé de toutes les classes de la société.

Quoiqu'il en soit, si vous deviez, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise, ne pas revenir au milieu de nous, nous regretterions toujours vivement votre absence et celle de Madame votre épouse, qui était, pour les pauvres de cette ville, une véritable providence. Nous aimons donc à espérer encore que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne privera point Damas d'un homme qui le représentait si bien, et qui a su, en si peu de temps, s'attirer l'estime de tout le monde.

En attendant, soyez persuadé, M. le Consul, que nos vœux et nos prières vous accompagneront partout où il plaira à Dieu de vous appeler. Je le prierai aussi de vous combler de ses plus abondantes bénédictions, et de vous faire prospérer dans toutes vos entreprises.

Agréez, &c.
(Official Seal) GREGOIRE JACOBE HELIANI,
Archevêque Syrien Catholique de Damas.

(4.)

From Damascus.

Aylul 1, 1871.

TO his Excellency the Consul abounding in honour and in respect, whose praiseworthy qualities and remarkable gifts and superior graces and purity of heart, with all other peculiar manifestations of excellency with which he is adorned, and with which he has been gifted by Allah, and which draw our hearts to him in love, and cause us so deeply to regret his departure after we have been upon such friendly terms.

I was indeed desirous of expressing my affection to you before we separated, in order to bid adieu to you in due form, but unfortunately we had no opportunity so to do.

Very great was our sorrow when we heard from your excellent lady that she intended to leave us this week. May her journey be prosperous to you both, and may you both increase in every worldly gift, and may you rise by her good aid and excellent qualities to the height of fame, and to spiritual and material greatness. And the Arab saying has proved true, "(A wise man) Shamm has met (the wise woman) Tabakah." We have begged her to offer to you our respects and explain to you the excess of our love to you; praying the Lord to prosper her journey, and that you may both return to us at once whenever the Holy Spirit shall please. Let us rejoice in seeing you both once more, and enjoy the benefits which you have both conferred upon us. Our desire is that we may again meet and renew our friendship, and thus obtain fruition of all our desires and ensure a continuance of our heartfelt affection. For that reason I offer myself as your servant even in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your prayerful,
(Signed) MACARIOS, *Acting Patriarch in Damascus and the Hauran.*

(5.)

[The copy from which this was printed is very imperfect, and in many places unintelligible]

(Seal.)

Illustrissimo Signor Console, *Nazaret, a 6 Emb.*, 1871.

Sesi per mezzo del Signor Zeller sendi il desiderio di vostra Signoria che demandava da me una dichiarazione del fatto successo, ma pero in Francese, simile a quella spedito a vostra Signoria in Italiano.

Senza nessuna difficoltà e con piacere sarei stato pronto a scriverla, ma vostra Signoria ben sa che qui in convento non ci ha nessuno che scrive il Francese, e volendola fare, sarei costretto a chiamare uno di fuori, e chi trovare da poterci fidare? ed essere sicuro, se senza vedere niente sequitano a parlare contro di noi e della vostra Signoria che ne sara se sendano di questa lettera. Io, Signor mio, o creduto più opportuno di non mettere soggetto a nessuno, vostra Signoria potra prevalersi di queste mie in Italiano, credo bene che in Inghilterra non pochi sono quelli che sanno leggere l'Italiano, e perciò la potra far tradurre in Francese, e così si evità ogni occasione a questi di parlare di più e contra vostra Signoria e contra di noi, che come io disse tuttora si parla.

Solo vi è di più in questa mia che la venuta in Nazaret del Pascia e del Mamur di Damasco, non fu altro di fare a loro modo, e non colla giustizia e perciò il Procuratore di vostra Signoria si vide costretto di far la protesta per due volte e tutte le due volte fu suspeso e non accettato. Allora il Procuratore di vostra Signoria non vedendo altra strada, ho pure [dato] autorità da presentarsi per far accettare la protesta al Pascia, si presentó al Convento, e scritto la terza protesta. Io per mezzo di un mio frate la presento al Pascia, ma il Pascia nel vederla rimase attonito, non potendola rifiutare, la presa, e voltatosi al Mamur di Damasco, che li era al fianco, li disse. Ecco prendetela che voi siete la causa di tutto questo, e perciò io non so niente, vedetevela voi. Ed il Pascia, dopo di aver stato per 17 giorni in Nazaret, quando era sul punto de partire mi mando la risposta della protesta, che vostra Signoria gia ne sara del tutto informato.

Ecco quando mi ho creduto in dovere di notificare alla Signoria vostra mentre passo a riverirla unito alla Signoria con tutto rispetto ho il bene di raffermarmi, &c.

(Firmato) JR. ANGELO MARTINEZ, *Guardiano.*

(6.)

Dear Captain Burton, *Damascus, August* 23, 1871.

WE were painfully surprised a few days ago by the intelligence that a despatch had been received from the Foreign Office, calling upon you to resign your position as British Consul in Damascus. We are quite at a loss to understand the motives for such a procedure. We can scarcely suppose that any one was bold enough to charge you with corruption in your official capacity. We have never known of a solitary reflection being made on your integrity, but have heard repeated testimony to the purity of your Consulate, and we can ourselves witness that your first official act was to replace dishonest by honest Dragomen.

On the other hand it seems to us highly probable that the very integrity which should have been your highest claim to the confidence of your superiors has proved the cause of your removal, by raising against you the bitter enmity of all, whether Turkish official or English protégé, whom your honesty disgusted or disappointed. Especially we have reason to believe that your straightforward course provoked the hatred of the Wali of Syria. This functionary, at once corrupt, treacherous, and incapable, prefers a Consul who is pliant to his will, and who knows how to shut his eyes on his rapacity, or even to be a sharer in his spoliations. What wonder that he should watch his opportunity to have removed a man whose conduct was a marked contrast to and a tacit reproach on his own.

We conjecture that he caught hold of the affair of Nazareth, and sought so to colour it as to injure you with your own Government. It was easy for the Wali to represent you as having become unpopular with the people of Syria in consequence, just as easy for him now to make it believed at Constantinople that he is himself a most popular Governor, though the contrary is notoriously the case. Still we feel greatly surprised that an English Minister should be deceived by his representations, and remove from a position he worthily filled a faithful servant of his country.

We think our testimony as English missionaries and subjects should go for something—it is that of men who were strongly prejudiced against you on your first coming to Damascus—who were bound to you by no tie of sect or of party, but who have admired the manly, vigorous, and upright course you have pursued while here, and who deeply regret that qualities such as yours should be lost to the land for whose moral and spiritual improvement they labour.

We are, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM WRIGHT, A.B.
JAMES ORR SCOTT, M.A.

(7.)

My dear Captain, *Nazareth, September* 7, 1871.

I RECEIVED both your letters, and also one from Mr. Drake. You can easily imagine how astonished we were when we heard what course the Foreign Office had taken in your affairs. When the Greek Bishop first spread this news here I flatly contradicted him, till I heard from Mr. Drake. It seems your return to England is necessary, in order fully to expose the doings of the Wali of Damascus, who evidently has powerful friends. To-day I obtained the inclosed letter from the Superior of the Latin Convent, and hope the same will contain the statements you require.

An investigation about the attack made upon some of the workmen at the Church was ordered by the Wali, but led scarcely to any result, and gave me so much trouble that I in future had much rather abstain from complaining. These kind of investigations are only calculated to make a foreigner odious and ridiculous.

I shall be very glad to hear from you, if it is only by a line, and hope you may be able to obtain justice in England.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ZELLER.

In great haste.

I have not heard what trick the Wali played you at St. Jean d'Acre. By next post I will write to you to London. It is scarcely necessary to say how much I regret your sudden departure.

(8.)

Dear Captain Burton, *El Kharabeh, Anti-Lebanon, August* 18, 1871.

I HAVE just heard of your departure for England, but can hardly realize the fact.

My wife and myself are deeply grieved at the news, and indeed we have cause for regret, not only on account of losing friends, but for our personal safety; having settled down permanently here amongst somewhat dangerous neighbours we felt our chief security lay in your presence at Damascus, knowing the esteem and respect with which all the Moslems regard you; of course I except those who are employed by the Wali, and every one knows that the animosity of the Wali and his party arises from the fact that you are aware of the bribery and corruption which pervades the whole system of

administration, and which has grown worse in his time than it was under his predecessors. I do not believe any one of the Consuls in Damascus except yourself dared to do anything but what the Wali pleased, right or wrong. In the fourteen years of my residence in Syria I never knew the English name so much respected as during the last twelve months. It is, however, selfish on our part to regret your departure, since both Mrs. Burton and yourself were probably glad to leave such a pestiferous hole as Damascus.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) JOHN SCOTT RATTRAY.

(9.)

To his Excellency the superior in energy, the elevated in nature, Consul of the Great Government of England. May Allah increase his prosperity with all good gifts!

AFTER inquiring about your honourable self, and committing you for ever to the charge of the Almighty King, I have the honour to state, that to my deepest regret you are recalled from the city of Damascus, and are about to proceed to England, leaving us a prey to sorrow and trouble. We therefore supplicate Allah that your Excellency will return without loss of time, and all our people are grieving sadly, because your presence at Damascus was a safeguard and a protection to us. We intreat the Lord, who has ordained this separation, that we may again have the joy of meeting, and that your enlightened heart will not forget us. And may Allah prolong your days, Effendi!

(Signed) SELIM (*Beg Shams*).

Jemadi-el-Aksin 25, A.H. 1288.

(10.)

Translation of Letter from Ali Bey el Hammadeh, Governor of the Druses in Lebanon.

To the high in mind and generous in manner, the excellent Bey. May Allah prolong his days!

AFTER presenting the usual compliments, and all due respect and prayers for your life and prosperity, it is our duty to inquire after your well-being and your present state. Secondly, since you left us going on the way of peace, you have filled our hearts with sorrow and regret; you have grieved our souls after the joy and pleasure we enjoyed. Such is the effect of your leaving this place and of taking from us the light of your exalted countenance; we ever pray the Almighty once more to favour us with your return to this place, and gladden our souls and joy our hearts, for He is Almighty. We are ever awaiting your Excellency, and we hope from the All-powerful that this may soon take place. Praise be to Allah, your fame and reputation, your good gifts and qualities are witnessed by all, great and small. May the Lord ever increase your prosperity and guide your ways, and direct you to the highest dignity and preserve you in joy and happiness. This is the object in writing to you, in hopes of your speedy return, and we shall be honoured by any orders that you may have to give us. All our brotherhood and tribes send to your Excellency their best wishes and inquiries, and know that we are ever awaiting to see you. May the Almighty prolong your days!

(Signed) ALI BEG EL HAMMADEH.

Jemadi 15, A.H. 1288 (*Ab.* 31, 1871).

(11.)

From Hammad Nofal, Chief Druse of the Village of ———.

To the exalted in rank and dignity, his Excellency the Consul Bey. May Allah prolong his days!

AFTER many prayers to the Almighty Creator that your life will be long in the land, and your honour and prosperity ever increase and be exalted, we have to inform

your Excellency, that having heard of your intended departure, we waited upon the lady, and we felt in despair when we heard the truth. We pray to the Almighty that the news may not be true, considering the kindness and goodness which you have bestowed upon us, and which has made us eternally grateful. Therefore we supplicate the Creator that things will not long endure in the present state. The reason of our writing is to know the truth of things, and to express the grief with which we have heard of your departure. And may Allah ever preserve you!

(Signed) HAMMAD NOFAL.

Aylul 12, 1871.

(12.)

Letter from Shaykh Mijwel-el-Mazreb.

AFTER sending most affectionate greetings, and the great affection we offer your Excellency, it was our great misfortune that we did not see you when you came to our house, and we are very sorry for it; and after that we heard of your going to England grief and sorrow came heavily upon us, because we have never seen anyone equal to your Excellency in this country, for all those related to England are deeply indebted to you; and all the denominations, Moslem and Christian, were fully satisfied with your Excellency, and they are all very sorry at your leaving; but we ask the Lord of Mercy to send you back to us in good health, and to let us meet you soon. From us and our brothers, who send their greetings, and from all our Bedawi, who send their best salaams, and whatever you wish us to do tell us to do it, and peace be with you.

(Signed) MIJWEL-EL-MEZREB, *Chief of Mezreb Tribe.*

Jemadi 7, A.H. 1288.

(13.)

From the Bedawi Shaykh Abd-el-Hammaid.

To his Excellency the Consul Effendi of the great English Government, &c., &c.

AFTER sending our best greeting and offering up many prayers for you, the dealer in good advice and justice, and after hearing of your departure, I was sorely grieved, and may Allah ruin the house of the man who caused it! But if it please God you will soon return and overcome those who are jealous of you. I know that all those under your protection are very sorry for you, as you have been very good to them. All creeds and denominations pray for your return to this land, and curse the other man, hoping for his speedy ruin. Allah is merciful.

(Signed) ABD-EL-HAMMAD.

Jemadi 19, A.H. 1288.

(14.)

To the master of dignity and prosperity, of science and dignity, always the object of our hopes, sent to us by the Most High and Merciful God. Amen!

AFTER sending our duties and compliments to your noble person, I have the honour to state that I am still standing in the same truthful love that was between us, and in the affection which was mutual, and in ever blessing and praying for you to the Most High, supplicating Him that your star may always rise brighter and pour upon you its beneficent rays of largesse and generosity. The love of this your servant is too deep to be expressed by the pen, and it dates from the days when the disembodied souls met in hosts innumerable during the beginning of time. I doubt not that your enlightened heart will feel for me as I feel for you, and that no one may expel me from your memory. The excess of my affection impels me thus to write to you, hoping from the Lord that we may presently meet and renew our affectionate intercourse. May He prosper your return to us in the happiest state, and defend you from all calamities.

(Signed) AHMAD MUSALLAM, *El Ashraf at Damascus, Chief of the Great Mosque El Amawi.*

Jemadi 15, A.H. 1288.

(15.)

Damascus to London.

Aylul 8, 1871.

To his Excellency M. Burton, Consul of the Noble English Government in Damascus, &c.

AFTER asking about your valuable health, we felt great sorrow at your leaving us, and we always speak well of your good name, and of your justice; and we hope that you will reach London in safety, and that you will send us news of your safe arrival, and this we hope from your kindness, and that you will soon return to Damascus, for day and night we are looking out for your return in peace to this place, because in your days we experienced peace and quiet, and we met with nothing but good at your hands. It is not only we, but all the community, which is very grieved at your leaving, on account of what they saw of your just conduct and steadfastness to the truth. And your Lady's leaving is also a great grief to me, because she is going to England; and we hope you will let us know of her joining you in safety and happiness; and we beg God Almighty that we may soon see you both again in happiness and good fortune. These are my wishes, and may God Almighty spare you.

(Signed) ABD-EL-RAHMAN.

(16.)

To his Excellency.

Sir,

AFTER sending our best compliments and our love, which we do not measure, we heard that your Excellency went away, and a great grief came upon us; firstly, because your Excellency is separated from us; and secondly, that we did not see you before your leaving, which would have been a satisfaction; and thirdly, because you did not send the news to one who truly loves you. But in your great kindness you told no one of your going, that they might not trouble themselves.

By my life we never saw anyone like you, and we never heard of anyone who acted so well as you did in the way of mercy. And we pray God Almighty to let you return soon, and to renew for us the happiness that was, for He is merciful, and will compassionate us. Amen.

(Signed) MUSTAFA ABD-EL-RAHMAN,
Kateb of the Mutasserrif of Damascus.

(17.)

From the Sayyid Mohammed.

To his Excellency Captain Burton, the Consul of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at Damascus.

AFTER inquiring about your precious health, I have the honour to declare, that your departure has been to us the greatest of sorrows; and we are ever praising your excellent ways and qualities. We hope that you have happily reached London, and will let us know of it, in order that our hearts may take rest about your health. And we hope, from your kindness, that you will let us know of your return to Damascus, as we expect you night and day, in health and well-being. During your time we enjoyed every happiness; and we saw from you nothing but good, not only we, but all the people are grieving at the separation. Considering how much of goodness in official matters they saw from you, and your preserving the paths of right. We equally regret the departure of your excellent Lady to join you; and we hope that she will travel in peace and safety. We also pray to Allah, that both of you may presently return to us in health and prosperity, and may Allah prolong your days.

(Signed) SAYYID MOHAMMED.

Aylul 8, 1871.

(18.)

From Hasan Ayyus Abu Shadid.

To his Excellency our Lord the Enyyid Bey, of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at Damascus.

AFTER kissing your hands, your servants would state that they have heard with great regret of your departure for England; and we intended to have come and kissed your honourable hand. We pray the Creator that we may soon be blessed with the sight of you, and we ever take refuge under the wing of the Lord. We hope, from your kindness of heart, that it will not forget its servants, and we supplicate Allah to grant to you the greatest of victories, and crown you with a crown which shall last for ever, and peace be with you, according to our desire, and our services are ever at your disposal.

(Signed) HASAN AYYUS.

Jemadi-el-Tani 10, A.H. 1288.

(19.)

From Shahadat-el-Halabi and Kasim-el-Halabi, in the Maydan Quarter of Damascus.

To his Excellency the Consul Beg, of the British Government. May Allah prolong his days. Amen.

WE, your servants, intreat with heartfelt prayers, that your Government may increase in power and grandeur, and that the Creator may shower upon it His choicest blessings, and adorn it with all good gifts. Thus may it happen. Amen, O Lord of the (three) worlds! Accept our supplications for your Excellency's welfare, and take pity upon us, and prolong your kindness to us, and your protection of us; and we shall ever expect and pray that we may again see you in the best of health; and we intreat the beneficent Lord that you may obtain all your desires in your official position to the fullest extent. And your servants will never cease to pray for your obtaining all your wishes.

(Signed) SHAHADAH.
KASIM.

Jemadi 22, A.H. 1288.

(20.)

Translation of Letter from certain Moslem Divines, Merchants, and others, of Damascus.

FROM the day that Captain Burton came as English Consul to Damascus till now we saw no faults in him; and he did not listen to any false reports, but acted on truth; and what was not truth he rejected it. He never received any bribes (bartil) from any one. Any business that was just and legal he did it, but that which was bad and worthless he left alone. And we saw no bad in him; and he loved the Mohammedans, and those who were under him. And there never came from him anything but truth; and he always walked with justice, and hated none but the liars.

(Signed) MOHAMMED AWAR.
BIKRI ABDER TAHAN.
EL AKKAD.
ABDU-EL-HABAL.
HASEIN-EL-AMARI.
ABD-EL-WASHED ES SOUWAF.
Sheikh MOHAMMED ALI.
MOHAMMED SALEH (from the Mosque of Anawi).

(21.)

Translation of Letter from ———.

To his Excellency, &c., the Consul of the great English Government.

AFTER asking after your Excellency's health, we hope to God that all is well. We address your Excellency; for the moment we heard that your Excellency had gone to his country great sorrow came upon us by reason of the great kindness your Excellency has always shown us. For you always acted with goodness to us and our property; and in your time truth prevailed, and falsehood did not succeed. May God spare you for us, and return you to us in safety. Amen.

Signed and sealed by your Excellency's servants, all the people of , great and small.

(Signed) Sheikh MOHAMMED ALI.
MOHAMMED HAMMED.
KASIM HAMUD.
HUSEYN HAMUD.
IBRAHIM-EL-GHAU.
And many others.

11*th day of Jemadeh*, 1288.

(22.)

Translation of Letter from ———.

To his Excellency, &c., the Consul of the great English Government.

THE cause of our writing is first to inquire after your health; and we ask God Almighty to protect you from all injury and harm, and to return you to us in safety, that you may protect us from all hurt, as you did before; for the moment you left our mind was distracted, and many thoughts came to us. We ask the Lord of the Universe and his Prophet not to take you away from us, but that you may protect us from all enemies and injuries as you did before; for you are good to all who are in difficulties, and protect them. May God make your days long, in the name of every prophet who worships the Lord of the Universe. Amen.

Your Excellency's servants, the men of ,

Seal of the Sheikh ALI YEHYEH.
„ Sheikh MOHAMMED YEHYEH.

(23.)

From the Village of ———.

To his Excellency the Bey Consul for the Government of England, in Damascus. May his Honour live.

HOPING to gain your merciful favour and (please) your noble disposition. When the news reached us that your Excellency is going to your country, great sorrow and heartache came upon us, because we were slaves for your Excellency's service. Asking God Almighty, in his glorious eternity, the Lord of Heaven, to return you to us in triumph, the giver of good news of help from the Lord of the Universe; and wherever you go may the Apostle of God help you, in the name of the Lord of the Universe. And may the Lord hear our prayers for your return, and may He spare you for ever. Amen.

For your Excellency's servants, the inhabitants of , under the Government of Baalbek.

Signed and sealed by your Excellency's faithful Servant,

(Signed) MUSELSIM AYYUB.
(Official Seal.)

11 *Jemadeh*, 1288 (*August* 25, 1871).

To his Excellency the Consul of England, &c., at Damascus.

(24.)

Translation of a Letter from ———.

To his Excellency &c., the Consul of the Exalted English Government, and may God spare him.

YOU, our just Lord, whose hand is strong, why is it that you have acted thus and left us? This has all come from our bad fortune; for you were for us a shield, to protect us from all harm and injury, and preserve us from shame; for only in your time have we always enjoyed rest; for you have guarded our property, and do not allow our religion to be mocked; and you allow no one to cheat us. But what are we now to do, O Sir? For this order did not rest with us, but the order is with Him to whom it belongs, and He is the Lord Almighty; and we ask from Him in our first prayers that you may return to us in safety; and our longing for you is like the longing of a man to be in Heaven with the Lord Almighty, because of your great kindness to us. (We swear) thrice by the name of the Most Excellent God (that we hope you will), return to us soon; and if you do not come we will witness against you on the Judgment Day of God Almighty, for it is your duty to do good to the sons of Adam. And may you be spared for ever. Amen.

We beg of you to excuse us in taking such a liberty as this, but because our hearts are burning with fire on account of your leaving us we hope that you will not blame us.

Signed and sealed by the servants of your Excellency, the people of collectively.

Seal of the Sheikh SULEYMAN MURAD.

(25.)

Translation of Letter from the People of ——— *and* ———.

To his Excellency Mr. Burton, Consul of the Honourable English Government. May God Almighty spare him.

AFTER kissing your noble hands with all honour and dignity, we address your Excellency. We, your servants, the Moslem Sheikhs of and (two villages), we have heard that your Excellency has gone to the land of England. Please God that this news may turn out for good, because we, the Moslems, are your slaves; and without the help of your Excellency to us we should be utterly ruined, because your Excellency is kind, and loves the truth for all people, and especially for us, the Moslems; you honour our religion, and love truth and mercy—an advocate of justice. We are hoping to God Almighty that He will send your Excellency to us again in a short time, for without your Excellency's help we shall be left destitute. We beg of your Excellency that you will have compassion on us, and return in peace, and soon; and may God grant that your Excellency may remain with us. And may your life be prolonged.

11 *Jemadeh*, 1288 (*August* 25, 1871.)

The Mukhtár of the village of ———,
(Signed) ALI HUSAYN VASIF.
The Khatib of ——— and of ———,
HUSAYN EZED DIN.
The Sheikh of the village of ———,
ALI ABDER RAHMAN.

(26.)

Translation of Letter from ——— .

WE, the Sheikhs, the Beys, and the Elders of , collectively, are sending this to Damascus, and state that two years ago we were honoured with becoming neighbours of Captain Burton, Consul of the English Government at Damascus; and during his residence for the summer in Bhedan, which is near our

village, we did not find from him anything but justice and truthfulness both to Mohammedans and Christians. And we offered our duty and services to him, and thanked him for his kindness to us; and hoping that he will overlook all our shortcomings, we address this letter to him for his kindness to us.

11 *Jemadah*, 1288 (*August* 26, 1871).

(Twenty-three seals in all.)

(27.)

Translation of Letter from Seyad (descendants of the Prophet) living at ———.

To the Boy the English Consul, &c.

AFTER kissing the hands of your noble Excellency, we, the Siyad of heard the news that your Excellency is recalled to England, and great sorrow and grief came over us. And we, the Seyid, were thinking of coming over and kissing your Excellency's hand; but the reason we did not is, that your Excellency went away to that land. We ask God Almighty to show us the light of your countenance in health, and not to prevent us from kissing your Excellency's hand. And your servants always hide under the wings of their Lord. And we hope from God that you may not stay away from us. And may God make your days happy and well-being for us. And may you ever be victorious.

Signed and sealed by your servants,

The Seyid ALI ZAIN.
The Seyid AHMET ALI IBRAHIM.
The Seyid HOSEYN SEYID ALI YUSAF.

(28.)

Literal Translation of Letter from Moslem Sheikhs at ——.

To reach with honour his Excellency and Highness, &c., &c., &c., the Consul of the English Government living at Damascus.

To your Highness and Excellency the Officer of England. May your life be prolonged and preserved.

AFTER inquiries for your Excellency, we hope from God Almighty that you may be always in happiness. We have heard the news that your Excellency is journeying in peace to your country. We were deeply grieved for the departure of your Excellency, but hope from God Almighty that He will soon show us your face again, because your Excellency is an advocate of justice, and especially for the Mohammedan religion, and loves all those who are dependent upon your Excellency, because your Excellency is beloved, especially by the Moslems. May your life be long.

7th day of Jemadeh, 1288 (*August* 21, 1871).

Your servants,

(Signed) ALI SHUMMAT (Sheikh of the Town).
MUSA KAMEL ED DIN.
MUSTAPHA DAKDUK.
HASAN KASIM AHMED.

(29.)

Literal Translation of Letter from Moslems of ———

To his Excellency the Bey, Consul of the Honourable English Government.

WE address this petition to your Excellency—we, your servants, the Mohammedan Sheikhs of and —because we have heard that your Excellency is gone to England, and we are in deep sorrow, which we cannot express to your Excellency; but we hope, from the mercy of God Almighty, that He will have pity on us, and return your Excellency to us in peace, because there is no Consul except your Excellency, who loves uprightness and mercy (and acts with them) to us the poor.

And without the compassion your Excellency showed to the poor in the last year, half the world would have died from hunger or in prison. And now all the world cries to God to return your Excellency to us, for we are very cast down without your Excellency. Your Excellency's commands will be commands.

10*th day of Jemadeh*, 1288.

(Sealed and signed by six Sheikhs.)

(30.)

Translation of Letter from Moslems of ———.

To His Excellency, our Master, the Consul of the Honourable English Government in Damascus. May his life be spared.

AFTER kissing your Excellency's hand, and because we, your servants, had the news that your Excellency is gone to England, a great sorrow came upon us, and we thought that we would be honoured with kissing your noble hands. Asking God Almighty that He will not prevent us from seeing your Excellency in a short time, call us together to see your Excellency soon. We pray your Excellency will not forget your servants, but order him to fulfil your requests. We ask God that your Excellency may triumph exceedingly, and that you may receive a crown from God which will never fail you; and peace be with you as much as our longing to you is. We send your Excellency our service. May your life be preserved. Amen.

10*th day of Jemadeh*, 1288.

Your Excellency's servant, who kisses your hand,
(Signed) HASAN AGERS ABU SHEDID.

(31.)

From the Village of ———.

To His Excellency the exalted, the beneficent, the great, the glorious, the honoured Consul Bey of the great Government of England at Damascus. May he ever prosper.

AFTER kissing your honourable hands and expressing our prayers for your being blessed by Allah the Almighty King, and your being raised to honour and dignity over us, it is our bounden duty to write inquires about you and to congratulate our souls by the tidings of your Excellency's return to our parts. This return to us would be the greatest of blessings. It is our duty, one and all, to kiss your hands, and now our brother Abu Ibrahim Mohammed wishes to kiss your Excellency's hands, and we both beg to offer you all our services.

(Signed by the Sheikh and Notables of the village of ——.)

Jemadi-el-Akhir 18, A.H. 1288.

(32.)

Letter from the Village of ———.

To His Excellency the Consul Bey of the great Government of England. May he and they ever prosper.

YOUR servants pray, with the strongest prayers, that the light of your Government may ever shine, and its honour and majesty may increase, and that the Lord will prolong the days of your Sovereign and adorn her with perpetuity of rule. Amen. We hope that your Excellency will take pity upon these your servants, and extend its protection over them for all time, whilst your servants ever expect and look forward to the honour of serving you to their utmost; and they will ever pray, Sir, for your speedy return.

(Signed by two Sheikhs.)

Jemadi 20, A.H. 1288.

(33.)

From the Druses of the Village of ————.

To His Excellency, the dew of great qualities, the exalted in mind, the generous and beneficent Consul Bey of the great Government of England. May he ever be preserved in welfare and dignity.

AFTER sending what is due and proper to your honourable self and your exalted qualities, and offering our respect, which passes all bounds, and expressing our gratitude to your glorious Government, may it never cease to be robed in honour and dignity and prosperity for ever and ever. We, your faithful servants, the Druses resident at have the honour to forward this petition to your Excellency's portal, because we are always obedient and subject to your high orders and to the orders of your great Government; may its dignity ever endure, and its protection will ever be extended to its servants, especially to those who are faithful to it. With one mouth and heart we raise our voices to the Most High, hoping from His goodness that and we, your servants, always hide ourselves under the wings their Lord. May God He will strengthen the pillars of your great Government with dignity and victory, enfolded in the cloak of majesty and enjoyment; and may your Excellency ever be kept in health and happiness, and we hope from the generous kindness of your Government that you will be able to keep your eye upon us. All this induces us to expect the support of your faithful slaves' reputation, and they will do, Sir, all that you wish from them.

(Signed by six Sheikhs.)

Jemadi 20, A.H. 1288.

(34.)

From the Druse Village of ————, *near Damascus.*

To his Excellency, &c.

AFTER sending our compliments and greeting to the honourable and merciful person, offering all our respects to your noble Government, which is covered with glory and happiness and good fortune for ever, and offering to your Excellency, as your slaves, this paper to your merciful hands, the Druse community, natives, and strangers in and near Damascus, because we are your Excellency's obedient and trusty slaves, and the same to your noble Government, &c., the strength of the people, and because we belong to it, and we are but mortals, and grief and sorrow have come into all our hearts, and we all with one voice pray to the Highest, beseeching his Mercy that He will strengthen your noble Government in glory and happiness, and that you may be dressed in robes of honour and attain good fortune, and that you may be spared to us in health and happiness, and we hope that through your Excellency's kindness we may find favour with you, and we write this to show our obedience to you, and we are ready for any service that we can do for you.

(Government seal of Sheikhs and village of ————.)
Sheikh ABBAR ZAYN EL DIN.
Sheikh YUSUF SHAAN.
Sheikh HOSAYN, A.K.L.
Sheikh KHALIL IBY MOHAMMED.
Sheikh HOSAYN EL KHOTEB.

20 *Jemadeh*, 1288.

No. 81.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 20.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Patras, August* 30, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to your order, I embarked at Beyrout on August 20, and arrived to-day at this port *en route* for England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 82.

Acting Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 1.) *Damascus, September* 28, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at the Sublime Porte relative to the state of affairs in this Pashalic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Acting Consul Jago to Sir H. Elliot.

Damascus, September 28, 1871.

Sir,

IN reporting to your Excellency the recall of Rashid Pasha, the Governor-General of this vilayet, I venture respectfully to offer for your perusal the following observations upon the state of matters in this Pashalic, begging your Excellency's kind indulgence for the deficiency which will be apparent, as, although my residence in the villayet had already given me some acquaintance with passing events, but a short time has elapsed since I have been in charge of this Consulate.

During Raschid Pasha's Administration expeditions were undertaken by him against the nomad tribes of Bedouins whose encroachments, accompanied by pillage and oppression, on the fertile parts of Syria and Palestine bordering on the Desert, had produced a state of things disastrous to the inhabitants of those districts. Success attended these undertakings. The Arabs were reduced to subjection; the system of black mail was abolished; and they were, besides being obliged to give hostages for their future good behaviour and the payment of tribute, mulcted in the costs of the expeditions. Lately, other refractory tribes having approached the habitable parts of Northern Syria, bordering on Horus and Hamah, were attacked, and their flocks and camels seized, while the Arabs themselves were driven back to the Desert in a state which will prevent them resuming their depredatory habits for some time.

These salutary measures have removed, in a great degree, a source of exhaustion and misery from the country; and although isolated cases of robbery by small bands still occur, a great change for the better has necessarily taken place.

In the Hauran things are quiet. The recall of the Vali puts an end, at least for a time, to the alleged intention of the Government of attempting by force to assimilate the Druses to the condition of the other parts of the country, in the matter of conscription and taxes.

The condition of the peasantry generally is far from re-assuring. The fiscal burdens, much increased since 1869, coupled with late deficient harvests, have pressed heavily upon them. The present crops are below the average, and should those of next year prove unfavourable, their lot will be, indeed, a hard one.

In the city of Damascus, perfect tranquillity prevails, and there is an absence of serious crime. The public force, aided by a system of espionage, seems to hold in check the turbulent spirits of the lower classes; while the Mushir, Izzet Pacha, appears to be a man equal to an emergency.

The late bad harvests have had the two-fold effect of preventing exportation and curtailing the consuming power of the producer. Trade is stagnant, and commerce reduced to the lowest ebb.

The troops in garrison here consist of about 4,000 men, besides about 1,500 irregular cavalry, large detachments having left lately for Beyrout and Aleppo. The state of the military chest may be judged by the fact that the men are mostly two and three years in arrears of pay. Recruiting of irregular horse and foot for service in the newly-created vilayet of the Yemen has been actively carried on during the past month. About 1,000 men have been enlisted from this neighbourhood among many persons of bad character, whose departure will prove a benefit to the country.

As regards the administration of justice, it is strongly tinctured with corruption and venality. The absence of the safeguards of public opinion, and of a European element in the population; the natural defects of Turkish administration when brought into contact with the vices inherent in the Arab character,—produce a state of things which leaves a very wide door open to improvement. The power given to the Vali,

when in Constantinople in 1869, of dismissing and appointing the Governors of the province, with the alleged view of checking rapacity, does not seem to have been efficacious; on the contrary, matters in this respect appear to have gone from bad to worse.

The Local Civil Exchequer, notwithstanding the heavy calls upon it of the Imperial Treasury, is not reduced to that penury which might be expected. Since the Vali's return from the capital, with the unlimited powers then conferred upon him, the sale of crown lands has been proceeded with, and has produced large sums. These, together with that portion of the booty taken from the Arabs, which found its way into the Treasury, have somewhat relieved the Department from the pressure of financial embarrassment.

The present season has been one of great sickness. The usual heats have much intensified the ordinary autumnal fevers of Damascus, and developed them into those of a pernicious character. There has been no suspicion of cholera, and the quarantine from Baghdad is still in force. The season is, however, too far advanced for a severe visitation of this epidemic.

The recall of the Vali has produced sensation. Petitions are going the round of the city and province for signature, praying the Porte to rescind the order for his recall. Telegrams have been despatched to Constantinople, in the same sense, by the Spiritual Chiefs of the Christian and Jewish communities. The feeling among the people generally is one of satisfaction. Apart from the innate love of change, sorely tried by the unusual duration of his tenure of office, the exigencies of the tax-gatherer and usurer, the misery of the past winter, and the stagnation of trade, have not tended to increase the popularity of the Chief of the Executive among the poor; while the increase of peculation and corruption in all branches of the Administration, which followed his return from Constantinople, has neutralized the great esteem in which he was held up to that time by all classes.

The comparatively small Christian and Jewish communities view his departure with feelings akin to regret, owing to the toleration enjoyed under his rule, and the footing of equality upon which he has placed them with their Moslem fellow-subjects. As most, if not all, of the Governors and subordinate officials owe their present position to him, his recall is regarded as the precursor of their removal.

The successor of the Vali is said to be Achmet Tawfik Pasha, of Kniah. He is said to belong to the old Turkish school, and a recurrence to the policy of that party, as opposed to that of progress, with which Rashid Pasha is identified, is looked forward to with impatience by some and with anxiety by others.

The Vali informs me that he will await his successor's arrival, which will probably be in about a month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 25, 1871.*

I HAVE received your letter of the 16th instant of October, recapitulating, with reference to the cessation of your functions, as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, the several employments in Her Majesty's Consular Service which you have successively held.

I do not think it necessary to follow you through that recapitulation, or to enter into any review of your conduct in the post which you last held. I am willing to give you credit for having endeavoured, to the best of your ability and judgment, to carry on the duties which were entrusted to you. But, having come to the conclusion, on a review of the Consular establishments in Syria, that it was no longer necessary to maintain a full Consul at Damascus, at a cost to the public, including salary and allowance, of 1,000*l.* a year, your withdrawal from that residence necessarily followed on the appointment of an officer of lower rank and at a lower rate of salary, to perform the Consular duties in that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 138. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the telegram of the Kaimakam of Syria, in answer to the order of the Grand Vizier to protect Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake and all other British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Raouf Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le* $\frac{19 \text{ September}}{1 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1871.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the telegram in cypher from your Highness, dated September 15th, with reference to a British subject named Mr. Drake. It results from the inquiry made that Mr. Drake is a relative of Captain Burton, late British Consul at Damascus; that he has been travelling during the last six months in various parts of Syria, and is now at Damascus. Some days ago he obtained a Bairyrouldi from the local authorities for the purpose of going to Aleppo, his object being neither to prejudice the Government nor for the purpose of commerce. But that having already given evidence before the Judicial Council of this Vilayet in the matter of a quarrel which occurred between the Consul Captain Burton and some Christians at Nazareth, his object was merely to report what he knew of this affair. For his protection on the road he had applied for an escort of mounted saleticks (police), and, as regards this and other assistance required by him from the local authorities, all has been arranged to his satisfaction by the British Consulate through the Government Interpreter. That he required nothing further, and had absolutely no knowledge of the "danger" alluded to.

With reference to the question of "ill-treatment," I can only say that no one has heard of Mr. Drake or of any other foreign subject having been ill-treated. However, with the view of not allowing the possibility of any such thing, so contrary to your Highness' orders, taking place, I have transmitted, confidentially, your Highness' instructions, together with strong recommendations on my own part, to the Governors of the provinces dependent on this Vilayet, and you may be assured that all my energies will be devoted to the preservation of good order in the country temporarily confided to my charge.

No. 85.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, October 23, 1871.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting-Consul Jago, reporting the refusal of the Rev. Mr. Wright to accept a Government escort during a journey he has undertaken through the Desert, to the north-east of Damascus.

This is a practical proof that Mr. Wright is not apprehensive of any danger, whatever his friends in England may think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Damascus, October 20, 1871.*

HAVING heard that the Rev. Mr. Wright of this city intended proceeding to-day to Jerûd, Yabrûd, and Nebk, situated in the Desert, to the north-east of

Damascus, on business connected with his mission, and having in mind the instructions relative to this gentleman which you gave me in connection with a telegram you had received from Earl Granville, I called this morning upon him and insisted upon his allowing me to provide him with a Government escort.

While acknowledging that he was taking the outer road to Jerûd, through the Desert, a route at all times exposed to Bedaween, he positively declined to take an escort, stating that he was proceeding in the company of Yussuf Daoud, a Christian notable of Nebk, a man of courage and influence, and that he considered the escort of this person and his retainers a sufficient protection. Yussuf Daoud was present, and when consulted, supported Mr. Wright in his view of the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 86.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(Separate.) 14, *Montagu Place, Montagu Square, London, November 12, 1871.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of October 25, 1871.

It is gratifying to me to find that the cause of my recall from Damascus is not on account of any erroneous impression that ill-feeling existed against me on the part of the authorities or the people of Syria. This circumstance will render it unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with many other testimonials lately forwarded to me from the British-protected Jews of Tiberias and Safed, from the Druses, from the villages about Damascus, and from other sections of the community.

It is, however, my duty to lay before your Lordship the inevitable results of appointing, under existing arrangements, an officer of lower rank and at a lower rate of salary, to perform the Consular duties in Damascus. In my despatch of July 24, 1871,* ("Consular changes, suggestions") I had the honour to point out the serious detriment to the public service resulting from Her Majesty's Consulate-General being placed at Beyrout, whilst in Damascus, the head-quarters of the Province, the residence of the Governor-General and of the High Courts of Appeal Her Majesty's Government is represented by an officer of inferior rank. It will not have escaped your Lordship's notice that Syria, and especially Damascus, are at present in an abnormal state of excitement, that a religious movement of an unexampled nature is shaking the foundations of Mahomedanism, and that the danger to British subjects and protected persons—I might say to all Christians, native and foreign—threatens to become serious. Until I brought these facts before Her Majesty's Foreign Office, they were, I believe, very imperfectly understood even at Beyrout.

No wish on my part to obtrude my opinions causes me to bring this state of affairs to your Lordship's notice. But I should be deservedly subject to blame did I neglect to lay before you the state of affairs in Syria, and to suggest for your consideration the measures by which serious consequences to British influence, and to the lives and property of English subjects, may be avoided.

With respect to my own future employment, it only remains for me to place myself at your Lordship's commands, in the assured hope that such employment will be of a nature to mark that I have not forfeited the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 144. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 6, 1871.*

I INFORMED your Lordship, by my despatch No. 132 of the 6th ultimo, that I had proposed to the Porte that the Nazareth affray should be investigated by

* No. 53.

a Commission, and, the suggestion having been acceded to, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a telegraphic instruction which has been sent to the Governor-General of Syria, directing him to carry it out.

After sending my former despatch, it seemed to me that it would be more desirable for Mr. Lionel Moore, who was on the point of returning from Egypt, to come by way of Nazareth, and take part in the inquiry on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, but I find, with regret, that his health rendered it impossible for him to do so.

I have therefore directed Mr. Noel Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, by the instruction of which a copy is inclosed, to attend the investigation, and see that it is properly conducted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—I likewise inclose the copy of a despatch I have addressed to Mr. Jago, requesting him to give every assistance to Mr. Consul Moore in his inquiry.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Aali Pasha to Rashid Pasha.

(Translation.) 1 *Shaban*, 1288 (*October* 16, 1871.)

COPIES of despatches previously received from your predecessor with reference to the improper conduct of Captain Burton, late British Consul at Damascus, in the affair of the Greek Church at Nazareth, have already been forwarded to your Excellency.

Entire satisfaction not being felt as to the truth of the strange proceedings imputed to Mr. Burton, a fresh investigation has become necessary, and, as was proposed by Rashid Pasha himself, a Commissioner on the part of the British Embassy is to be sent down with this object.

After consultation with the British Ambassador, Mr. Moore has been appointed. On his arrival, therefore, the facts will be thoroughly inquired into under your Excellency's superintendence, and, should it turn out on the conclusion of the investigation that Ottoman subjects be guilty in this matter, it will be your Excellency's duty, in conformity with orders contained in my despatch of 28th August, to take legal measures for their punishment.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 6, 1871.

IN the month of May an affray took place at Nazareth, in the course of which Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, and several of his servants, were more or less severely hurt.

As it is requisite that the circumstance should be thoroughly investigated, in order that it may be ascertained how the disturbances occurred, and who are the parties to be held responsible for it, it has been determined that it shall be inquired into by a Commission, and instructions to this effect have been sent to the Governor-General by the Vizier's letter, of which the translation is inclosed.

I have to request you to inform the Governor-General that you are instructed to take part in this inquiry on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, and that you are ready to proceed to Nazareth to meet the Commissioner who may be appointed by his Excellency for that purpose.

I inclose a copy of Captain Burton's Report of the occurrence, containing a statement from Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, who was present at the time, and from whom you will be able to obtain further information, if necessary.

You will be careful to see that the investigation is full and impartial, and that any evidence that is brought forward is fairly received and considered.

You will especially report whether the persons who have been already tried are those who appear really to have been the guilty parties, and whether their sentences have been adequate to their offence; and, should it turn out that others have been

improperly allowed to escape, you will at once call upon the authorities to take the necessary steps for their adequate punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to Acting Consul Jago.

Therapia, November 6, 1871.

Sir,

A COMMISSION, upon which Mr. Consul Moore will attend on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, is about to investigate the circumstances of the affray at Nazareth, in which Captain Burton and his servants were hurt.

You will afford Mr. Moore any assistance in your power in the way of procuring the evidence of Captain Burton's servants, or others who may be at Damascus, and who were present at the time.

If you have the means of communicating with Mr. T. Drake, I have to request you to inform him that this Commission is about to investigate the occurrence, and that I should be obliged to him if he would furnish any information in his power to guide Mr. Moore in his proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 345. Commercial.)

Therapia, November 6, 1871.

My Lord,

IN the beginning of September Mr. Tyrwhit Drake sent me the letter of which the copy is inclosed, respecting the trial of the persons implicated in the Nazareth affray. Although it would have been more regular on the part of Captain Burton to have left the superintendence of the proceedings to Her Majesty's Consular Officers, I did not think it expedient to make any difficulties in affording Mr. Drake every assistance in acting for him; and I inclose copies of the answer which I returned to him, and of an instruction to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, directing him to afford Mr. Drake every assistance he might wish to have.

I have now received from Mr. Eldridge the despatch, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, in reply to my communication.

From it, and from the inclosure from Mr. Jago, your Lordship will observe that Her Majesty's Consul-General and the Acting Consul at Damascus having been to the last kept in ignorance of everything connected with that occurrence, it has been impossible for me to have much light thrown upon it through their agency.

Mr. Drake's letter betrays a wish to rake up grievances which Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Jago do not appear to consider to have a real existence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Mr. Drake to Sir H. Elliot.

Damascus, September 11, 1871.

Sir,

IN a despatch, Separate, dated the 20th ultimo,* addressed to your Excellency by Captain Burton, he expressed a wish that I should act as his agent in pursuing the Nazareth business.

As yet I have not been able to obtain the official mazbatah of the Court at Akka, and your Excellency knows the Report furnished by Captain Burton's agents, Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, of that place.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

I applied some twenty days ago to Mr. Jago, then in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate here, to obtain the decision from the Serai. The Wali promised that, as soon as he received it, he would forward it; but, as your Excellency knows, the promises of this man are worse than valueless. His agent, Ottoman Bey Mardum Bey, returned to Damascus on August 31. The Wali left that night suddenly for Beyrout, and on the 8th instant Mr. Jago left for Aleih. There are now only dragomans left in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate, and, of course, no business of importance like this can be done, especially as Mr. Hasif Mashekah, who is now left, and has been in charge several times during the Consulships of Mr. Rogers and Captain Burton, is in very bad health, and can seldom, if ever, come to the office.

I am not the only person who has to lament this state of things; but the complaint is general, and it would be curious—if it were not humiliating—to observe how low English influence has sunk since Captain Burton's departure.

On the day of his (Captain Burton's) leaving Damascus, the Wali attempted to arrest the leaders of the secret Christians, who have turned from Mahommedanism but not openly declared themselves, but, owing to the courageous attitude taken by M. Awadys, dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate, the matter became too public for extreme measures.

On August 23rd the Protestant missionaries at Rushegga were prevented from putting an inclosing wall to their school-house. Mr. Jago procured two orders from the Serai, purporting to be to the effect that the building should go on, but in reality they were useless. An order of this kind is even worse than useless, for it gives the natives opportunity to laugh in the beards of the English, who are now sinking to the political level of Greece and Spain in this country.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will inform me what course I had better pursue with regard to the Nazareth affair. I may add that the Protestants at Nazareth have been seriously annoyed by the exultant Greeks, whose Bishop boasts everywhere that he has dismissed the English Consul. The Wali, too, takes this act to himself, but only gains credence with the ignorant, for he is universally execrated and detested by all sects, especially by the Moslems, who respected and admired Captain Burton, and from whose chiefs and religious Sheikhs I have received more than twenty letters to forward to Captain Burton, urging him to return, if not for his own good, for that of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHIT DRAKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Drake.

Therapia, September 26, 1871.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, which reached me yesterday.

In the despatch to which you alluded Captain Burton informed me that he had appointed you his agent, but I have no further information of any proceedings in reference to the Nazareth business than was contained in that despatch.

Upon learning from it that the trial of the persons implicated in the affray was to be heard on appeal at Damascus, I at once requested and obtained from the Porte an order that the case should be thoroughly and impartially inquired into, and that those who were known to have taken part in an attack upon Her Majesty's Consul should be duly punished.

Instructions were at the same time given to Her Majesty's Acting Consul, whose duty it will be to see that the matter is properly dealt with; and Mr. Consul-General Eldridge will give you any information which you may desire as agent for Captain Burton, of whose exact position in reference to the persons on trial I am not aware.

It was satisfactory to me to find from your letter that none but the ignorant consider Captain Burton's recall to have been the act of the late Wali, and his successor being enjoined to cultivate good relations with Her Majesty's Consulate, it may be hoped that the late differences may shortly be forgotten.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Therapia, September 26, 1871.*

I INCLOSE the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, and the answer, under flying seal, which I have returned to him.

Although I am unacquainted with the object for which he is acting as Captain Burton's agent, I have to request you to give him any information which he may wish in reference to the trial of the persons implicated in the Nazareth affray.

I have to request you to give me any information in your power in reference to the intended arrest of the Christian leaders, and to the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools alluded to by Mr. Drake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 88.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Beyrout, October 23, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, transmitting to me a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Drake, and the answer under flying seal.

As I was ignorant, till I received your despatch, that Mr. Drake was acting as agent for Captain Burton with respect to the Nazareth affray, concerning which, except what I received from your Excellency, I was without any reliable information, neither did I know anything of the intended arrest of the Christian leaders, nor of the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools alluded to by Mr. Drake; I therefore applied to Mr. Acting Consul Jago for information on these subjects, and I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the Report of that gentleman, which, according to my humble judgment, explains them satisfactorily, and I trust it will meet with your Excellency's approval.

The allusions of Mr. Drake to the humiliation brought upon the English influence in Syria by the recall of Captain Burton (whose personal influence must have been prodigious if his absence was so severely felt in three weeks) I pass without further notice.

For the absence of Mr. Jago from Damascus, which Mr. Drake mentions, I am entirely responsible. Mr. Jago was sent to Damascus at the most unhealthy season of the year; he was, from the uncertainty as to the length of his stay, obliged to take up his quarters at the hotel, which is situated in the worst part of the town, consequently, both he and his servants caught severe fevers, which were unusually pernicious this season. I therefore invited him to stay in Mount Lebanon, in order to shake off the disease he had contracted, which was impossible so long as he remained at the hotel at Damascus.

Mr. Jago, after a stay with me of ten days, entirely recovered, and returned to Damascus.

I have the honour further to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Jago,* reporting the refusal of the Rev. Mr. Wright to accept a Government escort during a journey he has undertaken through the desert to the north-east of Damascus.

I have forwarded a copy of this despatch to Earl Granville, as it will serve as a practical proof that Mr. Wright is not apprehensive of any danger, whatever his friends in England may think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

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* Inclosure in No. 85.

Inclosure 5 in No. 88.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Damascus, October 20, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 17th instant, inclosing the copy of a despatch which you have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador, containing as inclosure, the copy of a letter addressed to his Excellency by Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, and you request me to furnish you with a Report on the matters mentioned in Mr. Drake's letter.

With regard to the Nazareth business, the only application which I have received on the subject is a request from Mr. Drake to be furnished with a copy of the mazbatta of the Nazareth and Acre Tribunals; this I have obtained; but, as Mr. Drake left Damascus on the 2nd instant, I am unable to deliver it, not knowing where he is to be found. I was not aware that he was acting as Captain Burton's agent in the matter till the 26th September, when he mentioned the fact in a written application for the mazbatta, and until the receipt of your present despatch I was ignorant that his reason for asking for it was connected with any intention or wish of Captain Burton to pursue the case, or that such intention or wish existed.

With reference to the intended arrest of the so-called Christian leaders, I have to state that a few days after my arrival in Damascus, Mr. Anedis, one of the Dragomans of the Consulate, came to me late at night, and informed me that one Tahir Effendi Muradi, a Moslem Damascene, who, he asserted, had secretly become a Christian, was passing his house that evening in company with a friend one Sahar, also alleged to be a secret Christian, when they stopped to speak to him in the street; that two zaptiehs came up and arrested them for a breach of a Municipal regulation; that he remonstrated with them for arresting the men so near his door, and ended by inviting Tahir and his companion into his house; that the police thus foiled, communicated with their chief, who marched down a large body of men into the Christian quarter and occupied the streets leading to the house; that they made no attempt to invade his domicile, but remained in waiting until he had obtained my instructions in the matter. In reply to my queries, Mr. Anedis informed me that Tahir Effendi had some time before reported to him, under a solemn promise of secrecy, the fact of his being a Christian, and had also pointed out his companion Sahar as being one; that the fact was kept a profound secret from all, and that therefore he did not connect their arrest with it, as the authorities were necessarily ignorant of their change of faith. I told Mr. Anedis that he was wrong in sheltering the men from the police under any circumstances; that there were other means more efficacious of securing protection from oppression when such existed, which, however, by his own showing did not seem to be the case in the present instance. I reminded him that only a few months before, a criminal fleeing from justice, and who had been permitted to take refuge in the British Consulate in the absence of Her Majesty's Consul, had succeeded in thereby making his escape and evading punishment, and that the matter had given rise to the just complaint of the authorities.

I directed him to decline harbouring the men any longer; this he did. They were arrested and conveyed to prison, and next morning, when I sent to inquire into the nature of the charge against them, I found that they had been liberated after an interrogation, which, according to their own statement, was limited to the charge of being abroad without a lantern.

Mr. Anedis is an Armenian Catholic of Damascus; he is a simple, well-meaning man, but is much influenced by the Père Naggiar, the Superior of the Lazzarist Convent here, a person addicted to secret proselytizing. By his agency Mr. Anedis made the acquaintance of Tahir Effendi, and became the recipient, in some degree, of the secrets and views of a party alleged to have secretly turned from Islam to Christianity.

He was requested by Her Majesty's late Consul, according to his own statement, to inquire into the so-called Christian movement in Damascus, and I cannot dispossess my mind of the belief, after much research into a matter involved in much obscurity, that his zeal and friendship for Père Naggiar and Tahir Effendi, have led him to identify himself unknowingly with the ostensible views of a secret society, the importance of which is extremely doubtful, but which seems to be governed more by hopes of temporal than spiritual benefits.

With regard to the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools at Nasheya, I have to state that none exist. The circumstances alluded to by Mr. Drake are as follows: the Rev. Mr. Wright applied to me for an order to the Kaimakam of

Nasheya, to withdraw his opposition to the erection of certain small buildings. As such opposition was at direct variance with my experience of the action of Turkish officials in Syria in matters appertaining to British schools, I requested Mr. Wright to tell me plainly what it arose from; he replied that he believed it proceeded from a pique resulting from an idea that he was in some way connected with certain letters which had appeared in the Levant Herald, reflecting upon local functionaries in reference to the Nasheya schools and other matters. I applied to the authorities in Damascus for an order, which however the Kaimakam evaded; a second having had no better result, I called upon the Mutassarif, who expressed his regret, and at once dispatched a messenger to Nasheya, and removed the obstruction. The English missionaries have thought proper to express to me their indignation at the publication in the public press of this matter, and their intention of writing a letter to remove the impression sought to be conveyed. I begged them, however, not to do so, I may add—perhaps needlessly—that neither they nor myself apprehended difficulty in obtaining from the authorities the same facilities and support for the Damascus Mission as are conceded to other British Missions in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 6 in No. 88.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge, October 20, 1871.

[See Inclosure in No. 85.]

No. 89.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21).

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, November 4, 1871.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive Mr. Hammond's despatch of the 14th ultimo, transmitting to me an extract from the "Globe," and instructing me to report what foundation there is for the statement that Mr. Jago has left Damascus, and if it is true, the reasons for his having done so.

In reply I have the honour to report, that the statement of Mr. Jago having left Damascus for a few days in the early part of September is perfectly true, but that the reasons given for his having done so are entirely devoid of foundation.

The facts are as follows:—

During the summer and autumn of the present year the fevers that prevail in Damascus at that season were unusually severe and dangerous.

Mr. Jago was obliged to live at the only hotel, which is situated in a most unhealthy part of the town, and shortly after his arrival both he and his servant were taken ill. As I knew that these fevers frequently end fatally, especially with new comers, who are not acclimatized, and that the only remedy is change of air, I urged Mr. Jago, if he had no pressing business, to leave Damascus for a few days, offering him hospitality; he accepted my invitation, and the day following his arrival at Aleih he had a severe attack of fever, accompanied by delirium, which necessitated my sending some distance for a medical man.

After remaining eight or ten days, Mr. Jago's health having improved, he returned to Damascus.

Neither during his stay with me, nor in his correspondence, has Mr. Jago mentioned that he felt "alarmed at certain demonstrations of dissatisfaction on the part of the natives," nor even that any such demonstrations were made, therefore I can only qualify that statement as entirely unfounded, as well as most of the others in Mr. Palmer's letter.

From my knowledge of Mr. Jago I have no hesitation in saying that he would be the last man to take "advantage of an opportune fever" to desert his post in a moment of danger, or at a time when the public service might suffer by his temporary absence. He was incapacitated by serious illness from efficiently performing his duty, and he availed himself of the only remedy, change of air.

I trust the above explanation will prove satisfactory, and that Mr. Jago's and my conduct will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 90.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 128. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1871.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, that under the circumstances stated in your despatch, No. 144, Commercial of the 6th instant, I approve Mr. Consul Moore being a Member of the Commission to inquire into the disturbances at Nazareth, when Captain Burton and his party were assaulted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 91.

Mr. Hammond to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to state to you, that the explanation given in your despatch No. 44 Consular, of the 4th instant, relative to certain statements made in the "Globe" newspaper respecting Mr. Jago, is satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 160. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 28, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to copy of a Memorandum from the Porte, and of my reply respecting the sentences passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon various persons concerned in the affray at Nazareth.

I have called upon Consul-General Eldridge for a complete Report upon the trial, and especially upon the facilities of defence which may have been afforded to persons connected with the Damascus Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Memorandum by the Sublime Porte.

Sublime Porte, November 26, 1871.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Britannique connaît l'incident survenu, il y a quelque temps, entre les gens du Consulat-Général d'Angleterre à Damas et quelques habitants de Nazareth.

La Sublime Porte s'était empressée d'enjoindre aux autorités Impériales du Vilayet de Syrie de procéder à une enquête afin de découvrir et de punir les coupables. Il résulte d'un récent Rapport de ces autorités que le Tribunal Correctionnel de Sainte Jean d'Acre, appelé à juger l'incident dont il s'agit, a condamné les nommés Georgi Suleymann, Halil Youssouf, Georgis, habitants de Nazareth, ainsi que Habib, domestique du Consulat, conformément à l'Article 179 du Code Pénal, à deux mois d'emprisonnement, et à un mois de détention les nommés Elias et Georgios Verver, également

habitants de Nazareth ; ainsi que les employés du Consulat, nommés Sayaraled, Antouno et le cavas Mehmed.

Ce jugement a été déjà dûment communiqué au Consulat d'Angleterre à Damas, et le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères s'empresse d'en porter le contenu à la connaissance de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Memorandum by Sir H. Elliot.

Therapia, November 28, 1871.

HER Majesty's Embassy has had the honour to receive the Memorandum of the Sublime Porte, communicating the sentence passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon various persons concerned in the affray at Nazareth.

The whole of the circumstances relating to that affair being about to be investigated by the Commission nominated for that purpose, it is not at present necessary for Her Majesty's Embassy to do more than state that the accounts which have been received do not tend to show that the inquiry at St. Jean d'Acre was of a nature calculated to meet the requirements of the case.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General Eldridge.

Therapia, November 28, 1871.

Sir,

I INCLOSE the copy of a Memorandum from the Sublime Porte, communicating the sentences passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon the various persons connected with the affray at Nazareth last spring.

I have to request you to report as fully as you are able upon the manner in which that trial was conducted, and especially whether due facilities were afforded to persons connected with the Consulate of Damascus for obtaining the evidence they might require for their defence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 93.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 136. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, December 11, 1871.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency in the Memorandum which you handed to the Sublime Porte, and of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch No. 160, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, relative to the inquiry into the affray at Nazareth before the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1882.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4605)

F.O.

424

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

SMYRNA QUAY DUES.

TURKEY

28

1868-82.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March 1882.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4605.)

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

SMYRNA QUAY DUES.

1868-82.

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.						Page
1.	Mr. Freshfield to Lord Stanley	March	7, 1868	1
	One Inclosure.			
2.	Mr. Egerton to the Queen's Advocate	March	12, ——	3
3.	The Queen's Advocate to Lord Stanley	March	21, ——	3
4.	Mr. Egerton to Mr. Freshfield	March	28, ——	4
5.	Consul Cumberbatch to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 8. Commercial)	December	7, 1872	4
	Six Inclosures.			
6.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 89. Commercial)	December	18, ——	16
	One Inclosure.			
7.	Mr. Lister to Consul Cumberbatch .. .. (No. 3. Commercial)	December	19, ——	17
8.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot .. .. (No. 3. Commercial)	January	8, 1873	18
9.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot .. .. (No. 21. Commercial)	February	22, ——	18
10.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 18. Commercial)	February	26, ——	18
	Two Inclosures.			
11.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 20. Commercial)	February	27, ——	21
	One Inclosure.			
12.	Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot .. .. (No. 36. Commercial)	March	19, ——	23
13.	Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 3. Commercial)	January	8, 1874	24
	One Inclosure.			
14.	Earl Granville to Mr. Locock .. .. (No. 7. Commercial)	January	24, ——	25
15.	Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby .. .. (No. 49. Commercial)	May	18, 1875	25
	One Inclosure.			
16.	The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot .. .. (No. 35. Commercial)	May	31, ——	26
17.	Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby .. (No. 9. Commercial, Telegraphic)	March	28, 1877	27
18.	The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn .. (No. 13. Commercial, Telegraphic)	March	31, ——	27
19.	Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby .. .. (No. 10. Commercial)	March	30, ——	27
	One Inclosure.			
20.	Mr. Lister to Sir H. Elliot	April	10 ——	32
21.	Memorandum by Sir H. Elliot	April	18, ——	33
22.	The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard .. .. (No. 1. Commercial)	April	25, ——	33
23.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. .. .. (No. 14)	December	10, 1879	35
	One Inclosure.			
24.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 96. Commercial)	December	20, ——	41
	Two Inclosures.			
25.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard .. (No. 1. Commercial)	January	13, 1880	44
26.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 12. Commercial)	February	24, ——	45
	One Inclosure.			
27.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 13. Commercial)	February	24, ——	46
	One Inclosure.			
28.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 2. Commercial)	February	27, ——	46
	One Inclosure.			
29.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard (No. 27. Commercial, Telegraphic)	March	9, ——	54
30.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Dennis (No. 1. Commercial, Telegraphic)	March	9, ——	54
31.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury (No. 108. Commercial, Telegraphic)	March	11, ——	54
32.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 3. Commercial)	March	5, ——	54
	One Inclosure.			
33.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 112. Telegraphic)	March	13, ——	55
34.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 29. Commercial)	March	9, ——	56
	Two Inclosures.			
35.	Mr. Lister to Consul Dennis .. .. .. (No. 2. Commercial)	March	20, ——	56
36.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 30. Commercial)	March	16, ——	57
	Three Inclosures.			
37.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 159. Telegraphic)	April	5, ——	59
38.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard .. (No. 43. Commercial)	April	5, ——	59
39.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 6. Commercial)	March	31, ——	59
	Two Inclosures.			
40.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 157. Telegraphic)	April	11, ——	62
41.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard (No. 62. Commercial, Telegraphic)	April	12, ——	62
42.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 7. Commercial)	April	5, ——	63
	Two Inclosures.			
43.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 8. Commercial)	April	10, ——	65
	One Inclosure.			
44.	The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard (No. 67. Commercial, Extender)	April	22, ——	65
45.	Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury (No. 91. Commercial, Confidential)	April	12, ——	68
	One Inclosure.			
46.	Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury .. (No. 10. Commercial)	April	17, ——	72
	Two Inclosures.			
47.	Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 204. Telegraphic)	May	1, ——	77
48.	Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 206. Telegraphic)	May	2, ——	77
49.	Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 221. Telegraphic)	May	9, ——	77

No.						Page
50.	Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 56. Commercial)	May	4, 1880	77
	Three Inclosures.			
51.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 11. Commercial)	May	3, ——	80
	Four Inclosures.			
52.	Memorandum by Mr. Owen respecting Smyrna Quays	May	14, ——	82
53.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. .. (No. 3. Commercial)	May	18, ——	86
54.	Mr. Lister to Consul Dennis .. .. .. (No. 4. Commercial)	May	18, ——	86
55.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 12. Commercial)	May	22, ——	87
	One Inclosure.			
56.	Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 66. Commercial)	May	24, ——	87
	One Inclosure.			
57.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. .. (No. 9. Commercial)	June	2, ——	88
58.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 5. Commercial)	June	7, ——	88
59.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 13. Commercial)	June	9, ——	89
	Two Inclosures.			
60.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. (No. 25. Commercial, Telegraphic)	June	16, ——	91
61.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 9. Commercial)	June	15, ——	91
62.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 14. Commercial)	June	28, ——	91
	One Inclosure.			
63.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. .. (No. 35. Commercial)	July	9, ——	92
64.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 21. Commercial)	August	20, ——	92
	Eighteen Inclosures.			
65.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. (No. 50. Commercial, Telegraphic)	September	1, ——	106
66.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 314. Telegraphic)	October	16, ——	106
67.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 39. Commercial)	December	1, ——	107
	Five Inclosures.			
68.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. .. .. (Commercial)	January	7, 1881	111
69.	Captain Hozier to Sir Charles W. Dilke	January	28, ——	111
70.	Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen .. .. (No. 8. Commercial)	February	7, ——	112
71.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Consul Dennis .. .. (No. 1. Commercial)	February	7, ——	112
72.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Captain Hozier	February	7, ——	112
73.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 1. Commercial)	January	21, ——	113
	Two Inclosures.			
74.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Goschen	February	22, ——	120
	One Inclosure.			
75.	Mr. Goschen to Sir Charles W. Dilke	April	5, ——	121
	Twenty-five Inclosures.			
76.	Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 20. Commercial)	April	5, ——	144
	One Inclosure.			
77.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 3. Commercial)	April	17, ——	144
78.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Captain Hozier	May	6, ——	145
79.	Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 45. Commercial)	June	3, ——	146
	Three Inclosures.			
79*.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to the Earl of Dufferin	June	10, ——	148
80.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (No. 55. Commercial)	June	16, ——	148
81.	The Earl of Dufferin to Sir Charles W. Dilke	June	18, ——	148
	Two Inclosures.			
82.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 56. Commercial)	July	3, ——	149
83.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 62. Commercial)	July	16, ——	150
	One Inclosure.			
84.	Observations by Mr. F. R. St. John on the Report of the Turkish Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the Smyrna Quay question ..	August	3, ——	153
85.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (No. 77. Commercial)	August	9, ——	154
86.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 80. Commercial)	August	30, ——	154
	One Inclosure.			
87.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (No. 91. Commercial)	September	13, ——	157
88.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville (No. 108. Commercial, Telegraphic)	November	14, ——	158
89.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 111. Commercial)	November	20, ——	158
	One Inclosure.			
90.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (No. 122. Commercial)	November	30, ——	159
91.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. (No. 119. Commercial, Extender)	December	2, ——	159
92.	Mr. Lee to Mr. Macdonald .. .. (Private)	February	1, 1882	160
93.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 13. Commercial)	January	25, ——	160
	Seven Inclosures.			
94.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. (No. 14. Commercial, Confidential)	January	25, ——	189
	Six Inclosures.			
95.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 18. Commercial)	January	31, ——	213
	Four Inclosures.			
96.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. .. (Telegraphic)	February	11, ——	220
97.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (Commercial, Telegraphic)	February	13, ——	220
98.	Consul Dennis to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 2. Commercial)	February	10, ——	220
99.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Consul Dennis .. .. (No. 4. Commercial)	February	23, ——	221
100.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (Commercial, Telegraphic)	February	25, ——	221
101.	Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin .. .. (No. 10. Commercial)	February	25, ——	221
102.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (No. 23. Commercial)	February	22, ——	222
	One Inclosure.			
103.	Mr. Lord to Earl Granville	March	7, ——	222
	Two Inclosures.			
104.	Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Lord	March	11, ——	226
105.	The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville .. .. (Commercial Telegraphic)	March	11, ——	226

No.					Page
106. Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Macdonald	..	..	.. ..	March 14, 1882	226
107. The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	..	(No. 29.	Commercial)	March 14. ——	226
One Inclosure.					
		..	.. ..	March 20, ——	229
108. Mr. Macdonald to Sir Charles W. Dilke	..	..	.. ..		
109. Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin ..	..	(No. 16.	Commercial)	March 22, ——	229
110. Consul Dennis to Earl Granville ..	..	(No. 3.	Commercial)	March 17, ——	229
One Inclosure.					
111. The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville ..	..	(No. 33.	Commercial)	March 20, ——	233
One Inclosure.					

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting the Smyrna Quay Dues: 1868-82.

No. 1.

Mr. Freshfield to Lord Stanley.—(Received March 11.)

5, *Bank Buildings, E.C., March* 7, 1868.

My Lord,

I BEG to address your Lordship, and to ask for your Lordship's interposition under the circumstances which I will endeavour briefly to explain.

I am interested, in right of my wife, a daughter of the late Mr. James Hanson, of Smyrna, in a valuable property there, the frontage of which consists of an extensive wharf, abutting upon and forming part of the sea-shore of the town.

The actual proprietor of the wharf is my mother-in-law, Mrs. Hanson, who is an English subject, and was a daughter of the late Mr. Werry, who, at one time, had the honour to occupy the position of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Smyrna.

The wharf in question was completed, some ten years since, by Mr. Hanson, the then proprietor of the section of sea-shore embraced by it. Its completion involved a large expenditure of money, and the wharf became, and until recently continued to be, a valuable property.

The Turkish Government, in the month of November last, by its Minister of Commerce and Public Works, entered into a Convention with Messrs. Charnaud, Barker, and Guarnerino, and with a Company which these gentlemen undertook to form (since established, and called the Smyrna Quay Company) for the construction of a new quay to the seaward of, and parallel with, the whole existing sea-board of the town. This undertaking, when proceeded with, will not only annihilate all the privileges now pertaining to the existing wharves, but severely affect the value of the property. The basis of the scheme appears to be this: The contractors are to make a quay of a certain width, and are to have the filled-up ground intervening between it and the present sea-board out of which to make their profit.

By the "Cahier des Charges" of the Concession (a printed translation of which I take the liberty to inclose) it is provided (Article 4) that the Company are to have the power of filling up all that portion of the sea which is comprehended between the actual shore of the town of Smyrna (viz., the present sea-frontage) and the inward limit of the new quay. All the land thus formed by filling up is to devolve to the Company in full ownership. By Article 5 the Company are empowered to employ the land thus acquired for building purposes.

In front of the land thus acquired, and to be filled up, the new quay will be formed, and this, by section 23, is to be maintained as a maritime public way.

The Convention (Article 8) provides that the proprietors of the actual shore may purchase the ground which shall have been filled up in front of their properties to the inward limit of the quay, at a price based upon prices for ground filled up which was sold in the years 1864 and 1865.

From the foregoing statement your Lordship will observe that the Turkish Government, by an arbitrary Convention, and, as I venture respectfully to assert, in entire disregard of the rights of individuals, have summarily extinguished the rights hitherto pertaining to the proprietors of the sea-shore, in respect of which (speaking of the

particular property which is the subject of this communication) a large sum of money has been expended in its purchase and improvement; and the annihilation of this right involves unfortunately such a deterioration in the marketable value of the property affected by the measure that it may be practically regarded as nearly equivalent to confiscation.

The Turkish Government, moreover, has conferred upon the Company the right, in cases where the proprietors of parts of the sea-shore do not (or cannot) exercise the right of purchase from them of the filled-up land, to construct buildings upon it down to the inner limit of the new quay, and, as before observed, where the proprietors do make the purchase, there is a stipulation that the purchase-money shall be appraised with reference to the prices ruling for filled-up property in the two particular years, 1864 and 1865.

Now, these years, as I am reliably informed and believe, were periods of great and unexampled prosperity in the history of Smyrna, owing to the impulse given to trade by the cultivation of cotton; and a reference to them as the standard for regulating the prices to be paid under the Convention is an aggravation of the injury which, if not open to redress, will be forced by the Turkish Government upon the owners of sea-shore property in Smyrna.

The effect of the provisions of this Convention upon property of the class in question may be evidenced by the fact that Mrs. Hanson had been offered 2,000*l.* for a small portion of the frontage of her wharf, but, upon the Convention being published, the offer was withdrawn, and the property is now altogether unsaleable.

As the wharf property now vested in Mrs. Hanson was acquired by purchase, and improved by a large outlay of money, and really represents a most important asset of the estate of my father-in-law, I venture, with great respect, to entertain the opinion that, if the facts were brought to the attention of the Turkish Government, they might recognize the injustice inflicted by the Convention upon the holders of this class of property, and, in some form or other, make compensation to them for the losses to be sustained.

It may be that, in providing for the construction of the new quay, the Turkish Government consider themselves at liberty to disregard the position of the proprietors of the existing wharves; but this, I submit, as between Government and individuals, is exceedingly inequitable, not to say unjust. It is to be observed that this is not the case of the construction of quays in a new locality, but the establishment of a quay in front of one existing, which, by the new quay, will lose its special character and value, and become part simply of an inner street system.

The complaint which I have to make to your Lordship, and for which I venture to solicit your assistance, is two-fold: (1) the extinguishment of the rights of Mrs. Hanson as a wharf-owner in favour of a public Company, without any compensation being made to her for the heavy pecuniary loss thereby inflicted; and (2), the onerous stipulation in the Convention requiring her, if she should decide to purchase the filled-up land in front of her property, to do so upon the unjust principle of the inflated prices ruling in the exceptional years there mentioned. The question of the form of compensation in the first case may be one of difficulty, but the principle is recognized in the jurisprudence of this and the other nations of Europe; in the other, I would submit that the price as between the Company and the purchaser might properly, in case of difference between them, be left to arbitration.

I should not have felt myself at liberty to add to your Lordship's labours by bringing this subject to your attention, were it not that my relatives in Smyrna feel that a great injustice has been inflicted by the Turkish Government upon them under the circumstances I have detailed, and that a representation by your Lordship of the facts might have the effect of inducing a reconsideration of the subject by that Government, with a view to some compensational arrangement, based upon an equitable view of the value of their property previous to the Convention as compared with its present value. But whatever the result may be, I feel I have discharged a personal duty in bringing the matter to your Lordship's notice as one affecting the rights of British subjects living under Turkish rule, to which your Lordship cannot be indifferent, particularly where, as in the present case, they have been oppressively invaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN FRESHFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Convention relative to the Construction of a Quay at Smyrna, dated November 24, 1867, with the Cahier des Charges.

[See Inclosure 6 in No. 5.]

No. 2.

Mr. Egerton to the Queen's Advocate.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 13, 1868.*

I AM directed by Lord Stanley to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Freshfield,* in which he sets forth the particulars of a case in which he represents that certain parties, with whom he is connected, are aggrieved by the terms and operation of a contract into which the Turkish Government have entered with Messrs. Charnaud, Barker, and Guarracino, and with a Company which those gentlemen undertook to form, and since established, under the name of the "Smyrna Quay Company," for the construction of a new quay at that port.

I am to request that you will take Mr. Freshfield's letter into your consideration, and that you will report to Lord Stanley your opinion whether the case to which it refers is one which calls for any, or what, interference on his Lordship's part.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. C. EGERTON.

No. 3.

The Queen's Advocate to Lord Stanley.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord, *Temple, March 21, 1868.*

I AM honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Mr. Egerton's letter of the 13th instant, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to me a letter from Mr. Freshfield, in which he sets forth the particulars of a case, in which he represents that certain parties, with whom he is connected, are aggrieved by the terms and operation of a contract into which the Turkish Government have entered with Messrs. Charnaud, Barker, and Guarracino, and with a Company which those gentlemen undertook to form, and since established under the name of the "Smyrna Quay Company," for the construction of a new quay at that port.

Mr. Egerton was pleased to request that I would take Mr. Freshfield's letter into my consideration, and report to your Lordship my opinion whether the case to which it refers is one which calls for any, or what, interference on your Lordship's part.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands I have taken Mr. Freshfield's letter into consideration and have the honour to report—

That it appears that the Ottoman Government has contracted for the erection of a new quay at Smyrna, which will extend to the seaward of and parallel to the whole existing sea-board of the town. Mr. Freshfield represents that the new quay will cut off certain existing wharves, one of which is the property of Mrs. Hanson, from their present communication with the sea. It appears, further, that the Ottoman Government has provided that the owners of such wharves shall have a right of pre-emption in regard to the ground filled up in front of their respective properties, at a price based upon the prices of filled-up ground which prevailed in 1864 and 1865. Mr. Freshfield represents that those years were years of great and unexampled prosperity, and that such a standard of price will be an aggravation of the injury inflicted by the Ottoman Government upon the owners of sea-shore property.

It is not suggested that the Ottoman Government is dealing with the sea-board of the town of Smyrna in a manner which violates any law upon which Mr. Hanson, when he constructed the wharf, was entitled to rely, as securing to him the property of the foreshore in perpetuity, or that Mrs. Hanson's position as a British subject is in any way exceptional from that of Ottoman subjects who own existing wharves which will be cut off by the new quay from their present communication with the sea-shore. I am of opinion that this is not a case of grievance to a British subject which calls for any interference on your Lordship's part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TRAVERS TWISS.

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* No. 1.

No. 4.

Mr. Egerton to Mr. Freshfield.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1868.

Sir,

I AM directed by Lord Stanley to state to you, in reply to your letter of the 7th instant, that he has consulted the proper Law Adviser of the Crown as to the case to which you have drawn attention, arising out of the contract into which the Turkish Government have entered with the Smyrna Quay Company.

It does not appear to be suggested in your letter that the Porte is dealing with the sea-board of the town of Smyrna in a manner which violates any law upon which Mr. Hanson, when he constructed his wharf, was entitled to rely as securing to him the property of the foreshore in perpetuity, or that Mr. Hanson's position as a British subject is in any way exceptional from that of Ottoman subjects who own existing wharves which will be cut off by the new quay from their present communication with the sea-shore; and, under these circumstances, Lord Stanley is advised that there is not a case of grievance to a British subject arising out of this transaction which calls for interference on his Lordship's part.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. C. EGERTON.

No. 5.

Consul Cumberbatch to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 8. Commercial.) *Smyrna, December* 7, 1872.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, which I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, respecting the new quay tax lately levied upon merchandize passing over a portion of the quay lately terminated.

About five years ago the quay was commenced, and I addressed Her Majesty's Ambassador upon the subject, showing that, if the new quay was constructed in front of the present custom-house wharf, and the heavy tax levied upon merchandize passing over it, that the exaction would be a contravention of the existing Capitulations and Treaty of Commerce. Some years after, Admiral Lord Clarence Paget surveyed the projected quay, and he reported upon the matter to Her Majesty's Embassy, holding a similar opinion with myself, and by his Excellency's representations at the Sublime Porte the battery adjoining the custom-house wharf was added to the existing wharf. It will be seen, however, by the inclosed letters addressed by the merchants of Smyrna to their respective Consuls, that this additional space is insufficient for carrying on the traffic freely, and that the intention of the authorities is to force goods to pass over the quay and pay the tax, even where the quay is a positive impediment to their commerce, and increases their expenses.

It is suggested by the *procès-verbal* made by the Consular Body that 500 pics, or 1,000 feet, should be added to the present quay frontage and surface; this would be sufficient for the actual landing and embarking of goods, if proper buildings were erected to protect them from the weather, but still the necessity of passing over the quay would exist.

I have always considered that the traffic by porters or camels, by the streets, is impossible, owing to the narrowness thereof (about 9 feet) in some places, so that a camel with its load fills the street, leaving no room for even a man to pass by without danger of being crushed. The sea only can be used for carrying on the traffic between the merchant's store-house and the custom-house, the one being situated at considerable distance from the other. The quay runs immediately in front of all the warehouses for about a mile, and the Government has now permitted the tax to be levied on the small portions finished.

As vessels do not moor to the quay, merchants have now to pay for lighterage, quay dues, and increased porterage, whereas, by the inclosed Circular despatch of Fuad Pasha, it is clearly stated that the quay dues are to take the place of, and not to exceed, the existing expenses of shipment and discharging of merchandize.

Merchants who receive produce by sea now have to pay the new tax on landing, and also on shipping the goods when cleared and packed, whereas formerly they paid

a very small sum to the owner of the wharf, and could discharge and load much more conveniently with less expense.

I have the honour to transmit also copies of the Additional Article of the new Tariff and the Convention.

I have not hitherto addressed the Foreign Department upon this subject, as the attempt to levy this tax had not been made, and it was supposed that a remedy would be found to satisfy the commercial body in accordance with the Treaties, which admit of the exaction of only 1 per cent. upon exports and 8 per cent. upon imports.

The Turkish Government have contracted with Messrs. Dussaud to construct a port large enough to receive all the vessels frequenting Smyrna Harbour, but I am of the opinion that captains of few large vessels will avail themselves of it; those who do would naturally have to pay for landing their goods, as they are free from lighterage, but those who do not ought not be subjected to this extra tax when they are compelled to use lighters, as it would be dangerous for vessels to moor to the quay.

By the 3rd Article of the "Acte Additionnel" the Turkish Government have clearly admitted the right of M. Dussaud to claim indemnification, on account of their contracting to give him more than they had the power of granting, consequently I respectfully suggest that the Ottoman Government must be held responsible for the payment of the quay tax, but it cannot oblige foreign commerce to pay it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. WM. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir H. Elliot.

Smyrna, November 30, 1872.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a petition signed by the British merchants of Smyrna, as well as a copy of a petition signed by the merchants of Smyrna of all nations, also copy of the Resolutions made by the Consular Body respecting the want of accommodation by reason of the impediments placed in the way of free traffic by the construction of the quay.

The points in discussion resume themselves into a very small space, viz., is there sufficient room at the custom-house quay and streets for carrying on the large commerce of this port, in accordance with the spirit of the Capitulations and Commercial Treaty, without passing over the Turkish quay now in construction?—I say certainly there is not sufficient accommodation—and whether, in virtue of the said Treaty, the Turkish Government can exact a very heavy duty upon goods merely carried over the said quay.

It appears to me, your Excellency, that although the Turkish Government has destroyed the finest port in the world, we have no right to prevent it, yet it cannot oblige foreign commerce to pay for a quay which is a positive impediment to all traffic, and which has already increased the rate of portage.

As I have frequently said, if the Government makes a well-protected port, with every facility for shipping and landing goods, and merchants desire to use it, they will be naturally compelled to pay a reasonable tax, but not at the present rate, which is ruinous; besides, they are not obliged to avail themselves of the quay, as the Turkish Government stated from the first that it is optional.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

British Merchants at Smyrna to Consul Cumberbatch.

Smyrna, November 25, 1872.

Sir,

WE, the undersigned British merchants and ship agents resident in Smyrna, have the honour of representing to you as follows:—

The Imperial Government, whilst always requiring in principle that goods imported and exported should pass through the custom-house for fiscal purposes, has from time

immemorial sanctioned and countenanced, thereby giving a prescriptive right, to the usage of shipping the latter from various sufferance wharves under the inspection of a Custom-house officer.

The direct consequence of this system was that almost the whole of the exported goods were put into lighters from the different quays situated nearest the respective stores, and very little space was required at the custom-house wharf for this purpose.

All these circumstances have been greatly changed within the last few months. The facilities formerly allowed to trade have been swept away by the construction of the quay, and the imposition of high dues on goods carried over it. Driven by the necessity of escaping this heavy tax on trade, merchants find that their only resource is the free custom-house wharf, and are now obliged to avail of it for a large portion of their goods. We need not here insist on the obligation put upon us to adopt this course in the face of the arbitrary imposition of quay or wharfage dues without any advantage whatsoever to our trade.

The disastrous results of this increased use of the custom-house quay, and the vexatious restrictions and illegal difficulties thrown into our way, are the points on which we desire to put the greatest stress in this our memorial. We cannot help feeling that the conduct of the Local Government in this matter is of a nature which demands immediate and severe investigation, to be followed by the prompt adoption of such measures as the most important interests of our trade and shipping peremptorily require.

When it became evident that the enforcement of the Tarif of dues on the first section of the new quay would oblige merchants to avail of the custom-house wharf to a very great extent, one of the earliest restrictions devised by the Custom-house officers was to close permanently one of the gates of the custom-house which gave easy and direct access to the portion lately added to it, known as the battery. This gate greatly shortened the distance to be traversed by porters transporting the goods from the numerous and large stores situated on that side of the custom-house, and the closing of it put an obstacle of no small importance into the way of trade. We mention it with regret, Sir; but no doubt exists in our minds that this uncalled-for and vexatious measure against the interests of commerce was dictated by a desire to virtually force goods to be shipped over the new quay at extra expense, or at all events to reduce the proportion sent through the free custom-house. This object has been partially attained, in that the greatest difficulties are being experienced by merchants in the transport of their goods to the custom-house wharf.

The next measure adopted by the authorities to vex and harass merchants in the prosecution of their trade was the allotment of a limited space on the custom-house wharf for the shipment of goods. The evil of this is each day becoming more crying. The space thus allowed for the whole of our immense export trade is scarcely 30 yards long, and a portion of it is practically unavailable owing to the shallowness of the sea in front. There is room for only four lighters, whereas ten or fifteen, sometimes more, congregate there in the morning, and a portion of them, after waiting the whole day, can scarcely finish in time to get to the ship's side before dark.

From this deplorable state of affairs result hardships for our trade so real and palpable that it is scarcely necessary to dwell upon them. Our risks from rain and st[illegible] and our charges are greatly enhanced; conflicts occur daily between the lighter-m[illegible] the officers for a priority in getting berths near the wharf; our ships are exposed to serious detention from the difficulty and delay in sending off the goods, and unless prompt and efficacious measures are taken, it will become impossible for us soon to ship our merchandize at the required time.

We feel, Sir, that in expressing to you this system of vexations and restrictions under which our commerce and shipping are suffering, it is scarcely necessary for us to point out and direct your attention to the manifest illegality and breach of the Capitulations which are involved. Far from affording us all possible facilities for the carrying on of our trade, as is directly and emphatically stipulated in the Convention between Her Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte, every manner of obstacle and impediment is being thrown into our way by the Turkish authorities.

A careful examination into the grounds of our complaints will clearly demonstrate this statement, and, we firmly believe, will also suggest the simple and easy remedy.

The battery lately incorporated by the custom-house, and now forming part of it, presents a long frontage to the sea. We submit to you, Sir, and respectfully demand that in redress of these, our well-founded grievances, the authorities be required to give free access to this from the gate recently closed on our goods to the great detriment of trade, and that sufficient wharves be constructed along the now useless battery front and

elsewhere to allow of the prompt and easy loading of our merchandize under all circumstances. We are convinced that after due investigation the strict accuracy of the facts advanced by us will be clearly established, and that the urgent necessity of adopting the above measures forthwith in the interest of our most vital commercial and shipping interests will admit of no sort of doubt.

Expressly reserving to ourselves the right of addressing you again on other difficulties to our commerce threatened by the construction of the quay, respectfully requesting that your earnest support be given to our demands, and that a copy of this memorial be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and to Her Majesty's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, we have, &c.

(Signed) PATERSON AND Co.
(And 10 others.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

British Merchants at Smyrna to Consul Cumberbatch.

Smyrne, le 26 Novembre, 1872.

Monsieur,

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous informer que le commerce de notre ville, justement alarmé d'un commencement d'exécution effective dans la perception des droits fixés par la Société des Quais à la suite de l'ouverture de deux de ses sections, a tenu une Assemblée Générale afin d'aviser aux moyens de sauvegarder ses intérêts.

A cette effet il a constitué un Comité pour étudier la question et faire valoir auprès des autorités respectives, dont chacun de ces membres relève, les réclamations que soulève l'application d'un Tarif sans rapport avec les engagements pris envers les Ambassadeurs et les Légations à Constantinople par le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

Pour atteindre ce but, nous venons en qualité des membres de ce Comité vous remettre, M. le Consul, pour votre édification, copie de la Circulaire de son Excellence Fuad Pacha, en date du 1er Avril, 1868, qui constitue la base principale de nos droits et règle les devoirs de la Société des Quais envers le commerce de Smyrne.

Vous remarquez, M. le Consul, qu'aux termes de cette Circulaire le commerce de Smyrne n'est pas obligé de se servir des quais, et qu'il est libre d'embarquer ces marchandises et de les débarquer à la Douane comme par le passé.

Vous remarquez, en outre, que s'il veut faire usage de ces quais pour ses opérations commerciales la Société n'avait pas le droit de lui imposer un surcroit de frais supérieur à ceux qui nécessite le mode d'embarquement et de débarquement usité jusqu'à ce jour.

C'est à ces conditions, et en s'appuyant sur le principe qu'aucun des droits acquis par les Traités ne serait atteint, que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople n'a pas donné suite aux protestations qu'avait soulevée la concession des quais de la part du commerce et de la ville de Smyrne.

Or, il est avéré aujourd'hui, M. le Consul, que les promesses contenues dans la Circulaire sus-mentionnée de son Excellence Fuad Pacha ne sont pas remplies, d'abord parce que le peu d'espace dans la mer laissé libre devant la Douane et affecté aux opérations d'embarquement et débarquement devient tous les jours moins accessible aux mahonnes par suite de la négligence, peut-être calculée, dans son curage, et en second lieu, parce que l'étendu de cet espace que l'on dit être de 100 pics, est loin de répondre aux besoins actuels; ce qui fait que ce droit, reconnu du commerce, d'embarquer et de débarquer ses marchandises comme par le passé devient dans la pratique complètement illusoire.

Il est également avéré, M. le Consul, que le Tarif établi par la Société des Quais fixe un péage qui n'est nullement en rapport avec les frais qui occasionnent l'ancien mode d'embarquement et de débarquement, ce qu'il serait facile de démontrer par l'examen comparé à ce Tarif.

En conséquence de ce qui précède, nous vous prions, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien intervenir dans cette question éminemment commerciale, et de faire en sorte que nous ne soyions pas frustrés des droits acquis par les Traités et les Conventions.

Nous avons, &c.

(Signé) S. WHITTAL.
(And others.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 5.

Procès-Verbal of a Meeting of the Consular Body on the 28th Novembre, 1872, at the House of the Consul-General of Austro-Hungary, M. le Chevalier Charles de Scherzer.

LES Soussignés, Consuls des Puissances étrangères à Smyrne, réunis au sujet des plaintes qui leur ont été adressés par les Délégués du commerce, placé sous leur protection, lesquelles plaintes ont été rédigées en une note identique.

Considérant que par une Circulaire en date du 1er Avril, 1868, de son Excellence Fuad Pasha aux diverses Ambassades, il est formellement entendu (1) qu'il sera loisible au commerce de faire usage du quai ou de n'en pas faire usage; et (2) qu'il ne sera imposé au commerce aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que lui occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne;

Considérant que les 100 pics aujourd'hui accordés au commerce le long de l'emplacement de la Douane sont matériellement insuffisants, et qu'ainsi le commerce se voit privé de la liberté qui lui a été garantie;

Considérant, enfin, que dans le cas même où il serait fait usage des quais le commerce est contraint de subir un Tarif qui occasionne une augmentation considérable du prix des frais d'embarquement et de débarquement, portant en définitive atteinte aux Traités;

Sont unanimement d'avis:

1. Que l'espace libre, accordé au commerce le long de l'emplacement de la Douane, soit porté à 500 pics de longueur au minimum.

2. Que le Tarif des Quais soit révisé, car dans l'état actuel des choses, par suite du manque de facilités offertes au commerce, celui-ci se trouve souvent obligé de faire passer ses marchandises par les quais, payant ainsi les mêmes frais qu'autrefois, plus le droit supplémentaire des quais.

(Signé) DR. KARL DE SCHERZER,
Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.
R. W. CUMBERBATCH,
Consul de la Grande Bretagne.
LÜHRSIN,
Consul de l'Empire Germanique.
C. MOUSSURI,
Consul de Russie.
P. DORSHARMET,
Consul de Portugal.
CASTELLI STEFANO,
Consul d'Italie.
ESSÉDULLAH,
Consul-Général de Perse.
E. I. SMITHERS,
United States' Consul.
G. AUBEREY,
Consul gérant le Consulat Général de France.
J. A. DE JONGH,
Consul de Danemark.
S. TRIANDAFILI,
Consul-Général de Grèce.
R. J. VAN LENNEP,
Consul des Pays-Bas.
J. FREDERICI,
Consul de Belgique.
R. BERNAR,
Vice-Consul d'Espagne.

Inclosure 5 in No. 5.

Fuad Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 1er Avril,* 1868.

LA Sublime Porte a déjà eu l'honneur d'entretenir l'Ambassade Royale du projet de la construction à Smyrne d'un quai qui, partant de la Douane, aboutirait en ligne droite à la pointe, et des avantages qu'il offrait sous le rapport des intérêts généraux et particulièrement du commerce de cette ville.

2. Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous annoncer aujourd'hui, M. l'Ambassadeur, que ce projet a été sanctionné par le Gouvernement Impérial, et que la concession du quai a été accordée à la Compagnie qui la demandait.

3. Cette entreprise d'utilité devant être réalisée prochainement, je n'ai pas besoin d'insister sur les facilités qui en résulteront pour les sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique engagés dans le commerce d'une des échelles les plus importantes du Levant.

4. Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités, il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais qui lui occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne.

5. Je ferai en même temps remarquer à son Excellence qu'il ne sera point obligatoire pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer et de débarquer comme aujourd'hui à la Douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage.

6. Je suis donc persuadé, M. l'Ambassadeur, que vous voudrez bien inviter l'Agent Consulaire du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à Smyrne à prêter tout son concours à cette entreprise, afin d'en hâter et d'en assurer le succès.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) FUAD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 5.

SOCIÉTÉ DES QUAIS DE SMYRNE.

Convention relative à la Construction d'un Quai à Smyrne, passée le 4 Chaban, 1284, *ce qui correspond au 27 Novembre,* 1867.

ENTRE Son Excellence le Ministre du Commerce et des Travaux Publics, pour le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, d'une part; et MM. John Charnaud, Alfred Barker, et Georges Guarracino, fondateurs de la Compagnie, d'autre part, il a été stipulé ce qui suit:—

ARTICLE I.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman concède aux Sieurs John Charnaud, Alfred Barker, et Georges Guarracino, et à la Compagnie qu'ils se chargent de former, à cet effet, le privilège exclusif pour la construction et exploitation à Smyrne d'un Quai avec ses dépendances et accessoires, le tout conforme aux conditions relatées dans le Cahier des Charges annexé à la présente Convention, dont il fait partie, pour le terme de trente années, à dater de la date du Firman Impérial.

ARTICLE II.

Les Sieurs Charnaud, Barker, et Guarracino acceptent ce Cahier des Charges et les conditions y stipulées et s'engagent à en respecter en tous points les termes et l'esprit.

ARTICLE III.

Toutes contestations, quant à l'interprétation ou l'application des termes des Articles faisant l'objet de la concession dont il s'agit, seront résolues par l'arbitrage ainsi qu'il est stipulé à l'Article 24 de l'Acte ci-joint.

ARTICLE IV.

En ce qui concerne la propriété de la Compagnie des terrains de remblais formés par elle à ses frais et risques, ainsi qu'elle lui est accordée de plein droit par l'Article 4 de l'Acte ci-annexé, il est entendu qu'elle aura la faculté de faire la cession de ces terrains en totalité ou en partie, aux époques et de la manière qu'elle choisira pour le mieux de ses intérêts, toujours sous le régime des lois de l'Empire en pareille matière.

ARTICLE V.

Le Gouvernement Impérial percevra sur les ventes et achats des terrains de la catégorie mentionnée à l'Article qui précède, les droits et redevances en conformité des lois.

La Compagnie, à la demande du Gouvernement Impérial, sera tenu de lui fournir toute satisfaction quant aux parcelles de terrains de sa propriété qu'elle aura cédées, vendues, ou dont elle aura légalement disposé afin de fournir un moyen de contrôle au Gouvernement Impérial contre la fraude des impôts réguliers.

ARTICLE VI.

La perception des droits du quai, stipulée par l'Article 15 de l'Acte ci-joint, est entendue payable au Gouvernement Impérial sur la perception brute du Tarif accordé sans déduction faite des frais quelconques.

L'Acte qui devra régir le contrôle des perceptions sera établi d'accord avec l'autorité Impériale, à désigner par le Gouvernement à cet effet.

ARTICLE VII.

Les navires de l'Etat et les munitions de guerre sont exempts de tous droits de quai à Smyrne. Cette exemption sera accordée également pour les navires de guerre des Puissances amies ou alliées de la Sublime Porte.

ARTICLE VIII.

A conditions égales toute préférence est accordée à la Compagnie concessionnaire pour les prolongements, extensions, et développements qui pourraient être par suite proposés pour les travaux du quai à Smyrne et ses dépendances.

ARTICLE IX.

En cas de dégâts et dommages commis et occasionnés par des tiers, aux travaux de la Compagnie concessionnaire, et pour toute infraction des privilèges de la Compagnie, en vertu des présentes, les autorités compétentes auront à juger, et satisfaction sera accordée à la Compagnie, s'il y a lieu, à teneur des lois.

ARTICLE X.

La Compagnie, dans son ensemble, est placée sous la sauvegarde de la haute protection du Gouvernement Impérial, qui lui accordera en toutes occasions aide et protection.

ARTICLE XI.

Pour les dispositions relatives aux règlements du Vakouf en ce qui pourrait avoir rapport à cet égard avec les terrains acquis par la Compagnie, en vertu de la présente concession, la Compagnie aura à s'entendre par accord direct avec le Ministère de l'Evkaf et en conformité des lois en vigueur, et à promulguer à ce sujet.

ARTICLE XII.

Aucune marchandise débarquée sur le quai ne pourra être transportée en quelque lieu que ce soit et aucune marchandise ne pourra être embarquée du quai sans passer préalablement par la Douane. En un mot, la Compagnie se soumettra à tous les règlements et coutumes actuellement en vigueur, ou qui seront établis par la suite, au sujet du débarquement et de l'embarquement des marchandises. Les mesures

d'administration qu'il y aura lieu d'adopter relativement au quai, seront arrêtées de concert avec l'Administration Générale des Contributions Indirectes.

Cette Convention a été soumise au Grand Conseil ("Adkiam Adlié") qui, après l'avoir soigneusement examinée, a demandé et obtenu l'ordre Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan pour l'exécution de tout ce qui est écrit dedans; et, par suite de cet Iradé Impérial, deux copies ont été faites, signées, et les cachets apposés par le Ministre des Travaux Publics, et par les fondateurs de la Compagnie, dont l'un déposé dans les Archives de la Sublime Porte ("Divan-Houmayoun"), et l'autre consigné à la Compagnie. —4 Chaban, 1284.

(Signé) J. H. CHARNAUD.
ALFR. BARKER.
G. GUARRACINO.

(Sceau du Ministère des Travaux Publics.)
(Signé) SAFVET.

Vu au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, pour traduction conforme à l'original en texte Turc.

Le Drogman du Divan Impérial.
(Signé) A'ARIFY.

Le $\frac{\text{9e Septembre}}{\text{21e Décembre}}$ 1867.

(L.S.)

Cahier des Charges de la Concession des Travaux du Quai devant faire façade à la Ville de Smyrne; depuis la Caserne Impériale, d'une part, jusqu'à la Station du Chemin de Fer de Smyrne à Aidin, d'autre part, et passant par le Cap Touzla.

Les travaux faisant l'objet de la présente Concession seront soumis aux conditions ci-après, savoir:—

Article 1er. La Compagnie Concessionnaire du privilège des travaux dont il s'agit, s'engage d'établir, à ses frais, risques, et périls, un quai 25 archines de largeur à partir de la façade de la Caserne Impériale d'un côté et aboutissant de l'autre à la station du Chemin de Fer d'Aidin en passant par la pointe Touzla, en conformité du plan général annexé à la présente Concession, dont copie a été déposée au Grand Conseil de Justice.

Art. 2. Il est accordé à la Compagnie Concessionnaire cinq ans, à partir de la date du Firman Impérial, pour l'achèvement des travaux.

Art. 3. La Compagnie est tenue de faire établir à ses frais, sur les travaux exécutés, par elle, les dispositions usuelles et nécessaires, tant pour la sécurité de la circulation publique que pour la police de la voirie, telles que grilles pour la protection des passants, barrières, &c., d'usage en pareille matière, ou qui pourraient devenir spécialement nécessaires par la suite, et ce, après accord avec les autorités Impériales.

Art. 4. La Compagnie aura la faculté de combler toute la partie de mer comprise entre le rivage actuel de la ville de Smyrne et la limite intérieure du quai dont il est question à l'Article 1er. Tout terrain ainsi formé par remblais est acquis de droit à la Compagnie, en pleine propriété et soumis aux lois en vigueur ou à promulguer dans l'Empire sur l'acquisition, la cession, et le transfert des propriétés immeubles.

Art. 5. Sur tous terrains de cette catégorie, sauf les portions réservées pour les rues à ouvrir nouvellement, la Compagnie, ou qui pour elle par cession légale, aura le droit de faire élever toutes bâtisses ou constructions en se conformant aux lois en vigueur sur la matière, et ayant égard aux dispositions de l'Article suivant.

Art. 6. Avant d'élever des constructions sur les terrains formés par remblais, la Compagnie est tenue de présenter à l'appréciation du Gouvernement Impérial le plan général de ces terrains, comprenant les dispositions des rues et passages qu'elle aura à affecter aux besoins de la circulation publique.

Art. 7. Les propriétaires actuels de parcelles de mer qui les auraient achetées depuis plus de trois années, devront dans le terme d'une année comme délai définitif, à partir de la date du Firman, combler ces parcelles de mer de leur propriété par leurs propres moyens, et ceux qui auraient fait leur acquisition depuis moins de trois ans seront tenus de combler leurs parcelles, toujours à leurs propres frais, dans le délai définitif de trois ans à compter du jour de cette acquisition. A défaut de ce faire, la Compagnie aura le droit de combler ces parcelles en remboursant aux propriétaires les sommes qu'ils auraient payées pour l'achat de ces parcelles de mer, à teneur de leurs

titres de propriété qui devront en faire foi. Le rachat par les anciens propriétaires des terrains ainsi formés aux frais de la Compagnie, par remblais, sera soumis aux dispositions de l'Article suivant.

Art. 8. Les propriétaires du rivage actuel pourront acheter les lieux qui auront été comblés en face de leurs propriétés, et ce, jusqu'à la limite intérieure du quai, moyennant le paiement à la Compagnie de la valeur proportionnelle des lieux actuellement comblés. L'estimation de cette valeur devra être basée sur les prix obtenus pour les terrains comblés qui ont été vendus en 1864 et 1865. Les propriétaires devront payer cette valeur immédiatement après le comblage de leur façade, où, à défaut de paiement immédiat, à terme convenable, et avec un intérêt de 10 pour cent par an, à dater du jour où la Compagnie leur offrira l'achat des lieux comblés. La Compagnie aura droit en outre à une commission de 5 pour cent, une seule fois, en sus du prix auquel elle est tenue de céder les façades (soit la valeur actuelle comme ci-dessus) et le terme à accorder aux acheteurs pour le remboursement, ne devra pas dépasser cinq ans.

Art. 9. En ce qui concerne la propriété de parcelles de mer qui serait revendiquée, à teneur de l'Article qui précède ne seront reconnus valables par le Gouvernement Impérial, et par conséquent remboursables par la Compagnie, que les acquisitions légalement prouvées avoir été faites antérieurement à la date du Firman.

Art. 10. Les travaux faisant l'objet de la présente concession, jouiront, en ce qui concerne leur exécution par la Compagnie Concessionnaire, des dispositions de la loi d'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique, en vigueur dans l'Empire.

Art. 11. Les travaux du Quai de Smyrne comprenant une longueur d'environ 4,500 archines, seront divisés en cinq sections dont une comprendra la façade depuis la Caserne à la Douane Impériale, l'autre, depuis la Douane au Consulat d'Angleterre, la troisième du Consulat d'Angleterre au point dit de la Belle-Vista, la quatrième de ce point au Cap Touzla, et la dernière du Cap susdit à la station du chemin de fer d'Aïdin. La Compagnie aura la faculté de commencer ses travaux par la section qu'elle choisira comme plus avantageuse à ses intérêts et ceux du commerce. La perception des droits de quai (voir Article 15) commencera pour le compte de la Compagnie, aussitôt que les deux premières sections, déterminées plus haut, seront achevées, et que les opérations commerciales y seront établies.

Art. 12. Le Gouvernement Impériale concède à la Compagnie le privilège d'un chemin de fer, dit "tramway" à établir sur toute la longueur du quai, tant pour les besoins de son service que pour la circulation publique facultative par ce nouveau moyen. La Compagnie disposera d'un espace de quatre à huit archines sur toute la longueur du quai, pour l'établissement de son "tramway" qu'elle mettra en communication directe avec la Douane, en y établissant les aménagements nécessaires pour le service public.

Pour ce qui concerne le mouvement public par ce "tram way" il sera établi un Tarif dressé d'accord entre les autorités et la Compagnie.

Art. 13. Le "tramway" concédé par l'Article précédent fera gratuitement retour à l'Etat avec tout son matériel en bon état d'exploitation, la même époque et dans les mêmes conditions que celles qui régissent le retour du quai au Gouvernement Impérial par l'Article suivant.

Art. 14. La Compagnie devra faire abandon à titre gratuit du quai au Gouvernement Impérial, vingt-cinq années après l'expiration du terme accordé pour l'achèvement des travaux. Le jour qu'elle en fera remise, ceux-ci devront être en bon état sans besoin de réparations. Tous frais d'entretien pendant le cours des trente années du privilège sont et demeurent à la charge de la Compagnie. Dans le cas où la Compagnie négligerait ses engagements à cet égard, le Gouvernement se réserve le droit, après mise en demeure, de procéder d'office aux réparations reconnues nécessaires, pour compte de la Compagnie Concessionnaire.

Art. 15. Le Gouvernement Impérial concède en outre à la Compagnie, en considération des charges, risques, et périls qu'elle s'impose, le privilège de percevoir pendant la durée de la Concession, fixée par l'Article 14, un droit d'embarquement et de débarquement, sur toutes marchandises d'entrée ou de sortie par le quai en question dans toute son entendue. Ce droit est établi par le Tarif maximum, annexé à la présente Concession, contrôlé et sanctionné par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Douze pour cent des produits bruts annuels de ce droit appartiendra au Gouvernement Impérial. A cet effet un règlement de contrôle sera établi d'avance d'accord entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Compagnie Concessionnaire.

Art. 16. Il ne sera pas perçu de droits de quai des voyageurs et de leurs effets ou bagages ne rentrant pas dans la catégorie de marchandises.

Art. 17. Les travaux de la Compagnie comprendront le quai, et tout comblage devant la douane, ainsi qu'au cas de demande des autorités Douanières, et d'accord avec elles, l'affectation d'un espace de mer, comme bassin d'abri. Le tout à la charge de la Compagnie, et soumis aux dispositions de la perception concédée.

Art. 18. La Compagnie sera tenue de faire établir dans la limite de ses travaux, les égouts jusqu'à la mer, dans les dispositions réclamées par les règlements de la voirie souterraine.

Art. 19. La Compagnie aura la faculté de se pourvoir de pierres, terre à briques, ou autres matériaux nécessaires à ces travaux, dans les terrains appartenant à l'Etat, sans charge pour elle, et d'établir pour l'embarquement de ces matériaux une échelle à l'endroit dit Karchi-Yaka sur un point du domaine de l'Etat, à la condition qu'à l'expiration du terme du privilège cette échelle fera retour gratuitement à l'Etat.

Tous matériaux pris sur des propriétés particulières seront payés par la Compagnie sur accord à établir entre elle et les ayants droit.

Art. 20. Le Gouvernement Impérial se réserve la faculté de nommer un Commissaire, chargé de la surveillance des travaux. Ses appointements seraient à la charge de la Compagnie jusqu'à l'achèvement des travaux. A partir de cette époque, si le Gouvernement voulait prolonger la durée de l'emploi, toute charge cesserait pour la Compagnie.

Art. 21. Contre remise du Firman Impérial, la Compagnie devra déposer à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, à titre de cautionnement, la somme de £ T. 10,000, en valeurs Ottomanes ayant cours public. Le Gouvernement fera restituer ce dépôt à la Compagnie aussitôt que la section de la douane sera achevée.

Art. 22. Dans le cas où les travaux ne seraient pas commencés douze mois après la date du Firman Impérial, le Gouvernement se réserve la faculté de confisquer le cautionnement précité à son bénéfice, et si les travaux n'étaient pas terminés à l'expiration du terme de cinq ans, fixé par l'Article 2, le Gouvernement se réserve le droit de priver la Compagnie de tous ses privilèges en vertu de la Concession présente. Pour le cas de défaut de la part de la Compagnie en ce qui précède pour cause de force majeure constatée, un délai définitif d'une année encore sera accordé par le Gouvernement à la Compagnie.

Art. 23. Le quai devant être conservé comme voie publique maritime pour les besoins du commerce et de la navigation, le Gouvernement s'engage à interdire toute vente de mer, en dehors de ce quai, ainsi que toutes constructions sur la largeur réservée à la circulation, sauf, si besoin il y avait, des guérites ou autres abris pour les préposés de Police, de Douane, ou autres Administrations du service public.

Art. 24. Tout différend qui pourrait s'élever entre les parties sur l'interprétation des Articles de la présente Concession, sera jugé et décidé par une Commission d'arbitres nommés en nombre égal des deux parts. Le jugement de ces arbitres sera inappellable et en cas de partage des voix sera déterminé par la voix d'un surarbitre. Cette Commission Arbitrale ne sera nommée que pour juger les seuls différends entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Compagnie. Toutes autres contestations entre cette dernière et les propriétaires de terrains ou autres personnes, seront portées devant les Tribunaux de l'Empire.

Art. 25. La présente Concession dans son ensemble est soumise aux Lois Générales de l'Empire Ottoman, et sera placée sous la haute surveillance de la Sublime Porte, afin que les principes de la Concession et les lois qui la régissent soient maintenues et respectées.

Concession des Quais de Smyrne.

Tarif Maximum des Droits de Quai à percevoir en vertu du Privilège accordé par le Firman de Concession.

		Piastres.
Manufactures et marchandises en pièces :—		
Grandes balles	par balle	4 00
Balles moyennes	„ „	3 00
Petites balles	„ „	2 00
Cuirs, peaux, fourrures, papier, tabacs, tumbékis, galles, graine jaune, farines, son, biscuit, cire, cordages	„ „	2 00
Valonnée	„ quintal	0 10·40
Vin, bière, spiritueux, sucre, poix, résine	„ baril	2 00
Céréales, blé, orge, maïs	„ kileg.	0 10·40
Graines oléagineuses, sésame, alpistes, chanvre, &c.	„ „	0 20·40

		Piastres.
Garance, coton, laine, peaux de moutons et de chèvres, soie, bourre de soie, cocons, tapis, canevas, chiffons	par balle	3 00
	„ tonne	5 00
Charbon de terre	„ caisse	2 00
Eponges, gommes, allumettes, réglisse	„ „	0 20·40
Verrerie		
Quincaillerie de crystal et de porcelaine—		
Gros colis	„ colis	4 00
Moyens	„ „	3 00
Petits	„ „	2 00
Meubles—		
Gros colis	„ „	6 00
Moyens	„ „	4 00
Petits	„ „	2 00
Opium—		
Grandes caisses	„ caisse	2 00
Petites „	„ „	1 00
Couleurs—		
Barils gros	„ baril	5 00
En barriquauts	„ pièce	0 10·40
Beurre—		
Grands barils	„ baril	5 00
Petits „	„ „	1 00
Huile—		
Grands barils	„ „	5 00
En touloums	„ touloum	1 00
Mercerie et articles de modes—		
Grands ballots	„ colis	4 00
Moyens „	„ „	3 00
Petits „	„ „	2 00
Bois de bois, de teinture, ou résineux	le quintal	0 10·40
Indigo	par caisse	2 00
Semmonce, cochenille, essence de roses, bijouterie, sangsues	„ colis	1 00
Os, cornes, &c.	„ quintal	0 10·40
Figues, raisins	„ „	1 00
Nattes et paillassons	„ colis	2 00
Emeril, chrôme, pierres blanches	le quintal	0 20·40
Briques, tuiles	le 100	5 00
Pierres taillées et marbres	„	10 00
Café, riz, poivre, soufre, épiceries	par sac	1 00
Fer, plomb, cuivre, zinc, &c.	le quintal	0 20·40
Acier, étain	par colis	2 00
Fer blanc, quincailleries et ferailles—		
Grands colis	„ „	3 00
Petits „	„ „	2 00
Oranges et citrons	les 1,000	3 00
Provisions et comestibles (savon, fromage, olives, poisson salé, légumes frais ou secs, fruits frais ou secs, vinaigre, &c.	par colis	2 00
Meules, machines, coffres-forts, voitures	chaque	10 00
Bois—		
Grandes poutres	„	1 00
Moyennes „	„	0 20·40
Petites „	„	0 10·40
Poutrelles, grandes	par 100 pièces	10 00
„ moyennes	„ „	7 00
„ petites	„ „	4 00
Planches, grandes	„ „	10 00
„ moyennes	„ „	7 00
„ petites	„ „	4 00
Bétail sur pied	par tête	5 00
Charbon et bois de chauffage, melons, pastèques pour consommation locale, effets de voyageur et bagages		Gratis.

Tous articles non-énumérés dans ce Tarif auront à payer proportionnellement, selon la grandeur, valeur, et poids, sur la base qui précède.

(Ce Cahier des Charges a été soumis au Grand Conseil ("Ahkiam Adlié") qui, après l'avoir soigneusement examiné, a demandé et obtenu l'ordre Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan pour l'exécution de tout ce qui est écrit dedans; et, par suite de cet Iradé Impérial, deux copies ont été faites, signées, et les cachets apposés par le Ministre des Travaux Publics et par les fondateurs de la Compagnie, en deux originaux, dont l'un déposé dans les Archives de la Sublime Porte ("Divan Hounayoun") et l'autre consigné à la Compagnie.—4 Chaban, 1284.)

(Signé) J. H. CHARNAUD.
ALFR. BARKER.
G. GUARRACINO.

(Sceau du Ministère des Travaux Publics),
(Signé) SAFVET.

Vu au Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, pour traduction conforme à l'original ci-contre, en texte Turc.

Le Drogman du Divan Impérial,
(Signé) A'ARIFY.

Le 23 Novembre / 10 Décembre 1867.

Acte Additionnel à la Convention du 4 *Chaban*, 1284 (27 *Novembre*, 1867), *conclue entre le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et MM. J. Charnaud, Alfr. Barker, et G. Guarracino, convenu aujourd'hui, d'un commun accord, entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société Anonyme des Quais de Smyrne, dûment constituée aux termes de l'Article* 1er *de la Convention précitée.*

ARTICLE I.

Dans la construction du quai, la Société laissera pour le moment un espace libre de 100 archines environ, le long de l'emplacement actuel de la douane de Smyrne, et s'abstiendra d'y construire un quai.

Il ne sera établi aucun nouvel ouvrage sur l'espace laissé libre devant la douane, et le Gouvernement n'y construira pas de quai, ni fera faire d'autres travaux pouvant tenir lieu de quai, et ce jusqu'à nouvel accord avec la Société comme aussi en dehors de l'emplacement de 100 archines ci-haut mentionné, il n'établira aucun autre point libre, affranchi des droits de quais pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises.

ARTICLE II.

Les marchandises embarquées ou débarquées sur un point de la ligne dont il est fait mention dans l'Article précédent et provenant ou en destination de navires mouillés dans la rade et non accostés à aucun point des quais de la Société ainsi que les matériaux importés par celle-ci pour le besoin de ses travaux, seront seuls exemptés des droits de quais.

ARTICLE III.

A partir du jour où les travaux des quais seront achevés, il sera tenu des registres spéciaux des marchandises embarquées ou débarquées à la susdite échelle libre.

Le montant des droits dont ces marchandises auraient été passibles, si elles eussent été embarquées ou débarquées sur les quais de la Société, sera passé, au bout de chaque année, au crédit de la Société, déduction faite du 12 pour cent qui en tout cas serait revenu au Gouvernement Impérial, de sorte que la Compagnie retiendra le restant sur le montant de la redevance de 12 pour cent revenant au Gouvernement sur les recettes des droits de quais, conformément à l'Article 15 du Cahier des Charges, faisant partie de la Convention précitée.

Si le montant des droits de quais, dont auraient été passibles les marchandises embarquées ou débarquées à la Douane actuelle sur l'espace laissé libre, dépassait le chiffre de la redevance revenant au Gouvernement, celui-ci s'engage à faire combler chaque année cette différence jusqu'à concurrence de £T. 3,000. Mais, dans le cas où le montant des recettes de la Société atteindrait le chiffre de £T. 20,000 par an, après déduction de 12 pour cent et sans défalcation de ses frais, le 12 pour cent ci-dessus mentionné fera retour intégralement au Gouvernement Impérial, et la Société n'aura à réclamer dans ce cas aucune indemnité pour les marchandises embarquées ou débarquées à l'échelle libre précitée avec franchise des droits de quais.

ARTICLE IV.

La perception des droits de quais, autorisée par l'Article 15 du Cahier des Charges annexé à la Convention précitée, se fera par la Société, au fur et à mesure qu'une partie des quais sera achevée et livrée au commerce, sur les marchandises qui y seront embarquées ou débarquées; et tout autant que les recettes effectuées ainsi sur des parties de quais mises en exploitation n'auront pas dépassé le chiffre de "£T. 20,000" par an, la Société sera tenue exempte du paiement de 12 pour cent stipulé en faveur du Gouvernement Impérial. De même que l'indemnité jusqu'à concurrence de "£T. 3,000" stipulée au profit de la Société en compensation des droits afférents aux marchandises embarquées ou débarquées à l'échelle libre ci-haut mentionnée, ne commencera à courir qu'après l'achèvement complet et la mise en exploitation des quais.

ARTICLE V.

Par suite des dispositions des Articles 1er et 2 de la présente Convention Additionnelle, la Société des Quais de Smyrne est dispensée de faire le bassin d'abri, imposé par l'Article 17 du Cahier des Charges; mais elle aura la faculté d'en former un à côté du point libre de la douane, et de construire des jetées partout où elle le jugera à propos, pour les besoins du commerce, sur le parcours de la ligne des quais, et d'y installer les aménagements qu'elle croira nécessaires pour recevoir les marchandises à l'embarquement ou au débarquement au port d'abri, sur ces jetées, ainsi que sur tout le parcours des quais, en stricte conformité des règlements de la douane.

ARTICLE VI.

Dans le cas où la Société des Quais serait requise par le Gouvernement Impérial, par dérogation à l'Article 1er du présent Acte, à faire construire et remblayer le quai, devant la douane, la Compagnie fera la susdite construction, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 17 du Cahier des Charges, et elle sera autorisée en même temps à percevoir les droits sur les marchandises passant par le dit quai de la Douane comme sur tous les autres; la Convention du 4 Chaban, 1284, ainsi que le Cahier des Charges y annexé, recevraient leur pleine et entière exécution, et les Articles 1er, 2, et 3 du présent Acte Additionnel seraient considérés comme nuls et non avenus.

ARTICLE VII.

A la suite de la modification de l'Article 21 du Cahier des Charges annexé à la Convention susdite, le dépôt à titre de cautionnement que la Société est tenue de faire, lors de l'obtention du Firman Impérial, ne lui sera restitué qu'après qu'en dehors de l'espace de 100 archines qui sera laissé libre devant la douane, elle aura achevé la première et la deuxième section des quais, spécifiés par l'Article 11 du Cahier des Charges.

(Cet Acte Additionnel a été soumis au Grand Conseil des Ministres ("Medjlissi Has Vukela") qui, après l'avoir soigneusement examiné, a demandé et obtenu l'ordre Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan pour l'exécution de tout ce qu'il contient; et, par suite de cet Iradé Impérial, deux copies ont été faites, signées, et les cachets apposés par le Ministre des Travaux Publics et par le Représentant de la Compagnie en deux originaux, dont l'un déposé dans les Archives de la Sublime Porte ("Divan Homayoun"), et l'autre consigné à la Compagnie.—12 Redjeb, 1285.)

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 89. Commercial.)

Constantinople, December 18, 1872.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a note that I have addressed to the Porte, on the subject of the injury to the commercial and shipping interests of Smyrna that seem likely to result from the operations of the new Quay Company, which formed the subject of Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's despatch of the 30th November, of which a copy was transmitted by him to your Lordship.

Although the unanimity with which the protest of the merchants is on this occasion supported by the Consuls gives every ground for believing in the justice of the complaint of the insufficiency of the free space left for landing goods at the custom-house, there is so much discrepancy in the accounts which are given of the advantages or disadvantages of the quay, that I propose, if I can manage it, to proceed there very shortly myself in order to form an opinion on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to Halil Sheriff Pasha.

Constantinople, December 18, 1872.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have, in common, I believe, with all my colleagues, received from Smyrna urgent representations of the injury that is being inflicted upon the commercial and shipping interests of that place by the operations of the new Quay Company.

The inclosed *procès-verbal* of a meeting of the Consular Body, and the accompanying letter of the merchants, so fully and conclusively establish the reality of the grievances that it is needless for me to recapitulate them, but I would refer your Excellency to the note of his Highness Fuad Pasha of the 8th April, 1868, to which allusion is made in them; and I would submit that the present arrangements with regard to the quay are far from being in conformity with the engagement then formally taken by the Sublime Porte that the construction of the quay should not add to the charges upon the merchandize embarked or landed at Smyrna.

By a *note verbale* which I had the honour to address to the Sublime Porte on the 19th May, 1869, I represented that, "if a Firman for this work is to be granted, it is essential that the rights of the merchants should be protected by the reservation of a free space before the custom-house sufficient for the reception of the goods, if the merchants do not choose to avail themselves of the quay."

"If this is not done, the quay dues, though apparently voluntary, would become practically obligatory, and, as such, contrary to the spirit of the Treaties of Commerce."

On the 14th June of the same year, in forwarding to his Highness Aali Pasha the copy of a memorial from the British merchants against the proposed quay which threatened to be so injurious to their interests, I pointed out in an official note that the 100 pics proposed to be reserved in front of the custom-house would be altogether insufficient, and that it would be necessary to enlarge the custom-house quay by adding to it the whole of the battery; and I added that it was "in order to avoid future misunderstanding that I had thought it advisable at this early stage to call his Highness' attention to the subject, for if by depriving shipping of a sufficient free access to the custom-house the use of the new quay became practically compulsory, it would be my duty to object to the dues being imposed upon British vessels."

The Sublime Porte recognized the justice of this appeal by opening the battery for the use of commerce, but I am now informed that the Quay Company have already commenced filling up this space also, thus confining the free portion to the 100 pics, which had been shown to be so inadequate.

I would therefore urge your Excellency without loss of time to direct this part of the work to be immediately stopped, while the whole question relating to the quay receives the consideration to which the importance of the interests involved so well entitles it.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Mr. Lister to Consul Cumberbatch.

(No. 3. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, December 19, 1872.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 8, Commercial, of the 7th instant, with its inclosures, relative to the new quay tax lately levied upon merchandize passing over a portion of the quay recently constructed at Smyrna.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 8.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 3. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, January 8, 1873.*

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to your Excellency my approval of the note (a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 89, Commercial, of the 18th ultimo), addressed by you to the Ottoman Government with regard to the complaints which have been made by the mercantile community at Smyrna respecting the operations of the new Quay Company at that port.

I also approve your Excellency's intention of proceeding to Smyrna with the view of personally investigating this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 21. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, February 22, 1873.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 15, Commercial, of the 6th instant,* relative to your intended visit to Smyrna with a view to ascertaining personally the state of the case as regards the proposed new quay at that port; and I now have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proposal, as therein stated, to visit on your return Cavalla and Dédéagatch, in order to investigate the questions connected with Consular Establishments at those places.

I have, in conclusion, to authorize you to charge in the public accounts of Her Majesty's Embassy the expense of your Excellency's maintenance on board the "Antelope" during the proposed tour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 18. Commercial.) *Constantinople, February 26, 1873.*

My Lord,

IN execution of the intention of which your Lordship had expressed your approval, I proceeded on the 10th instant to Smyrna, in order to investigate, by personal observation, the complaints made by many influential and respectable members of the mercantile community in reference to the construction of the new quay at that place.

An inspection of the locality has enabled me to arrive at, and, I hope, to convey to your Lordship, an understanding of the bearings of the whole question, which it would have been impossible for me to obtain in any other way.

Private interests had been so closely touched that all the reports that reached me were tinged with an acrimony and prejudice which made it evident that they did not convey any fair appreciation of the results to be expected from the works in progress.

On the side of the promoters of the undertaking I was assured that, so far from injuring the commercial and shipping interests, it was destined to prove of an immense benefit to them; while, on the other hand, I was told that the project would be found so detrimental to those interests that a great falling-off of the present trade was to be anticipated from it.

It was hopeless to attempt to reconcile statements so incongruous by mere reference to parties who threw so much passion into their arguments.

There are several totally distinct points which it is necessary to examine in reference to the scheme, and it is essential to keep them separate.

The first relates to the rights of the owners of properties which formerly had sea frontages, but which will now lose them, unless they purchase from the Quay Company the reclaimed land or go to the expense of filling it in themselves.

A large number of the foreign merchants, including many most respectable British

* See Inclosure 11 in No. 75, p. 127.

subjects, are to be found among them; and it is not to be wondered at if a scheme which will deteriorate the value of their property and injuriously interfere with their own enjoyments is looked upon with an aversion which prevents them from being impartial judges of its probable public effects.

However great the hardship to themselves personally may be, they are not in a position to establish the infringement of their legal rights, for in this country a right to water frontage is not inherent in a property, and the sea before them may belong to the Sovereign or the Vakouf, who are free to reclaim or build into it without compensation to the owners of the land.

Her Majesty's Consulate is upon one of the properties situated in the manner I have pointed out; and although Mr. Consul Cumberbatch was at one time under the impression that the right to the sea had been included within the grant, the researches which I caused to be made having failed to bring to light a trace of any such concession, I abstained from advancing a claim in support of which it would have been impossible to produce the slightest evidence.

The deterioration which the property would suffer, in common with others similarly situated, appeared no sufficient reason for protesting against the execution of a great public work, especially as it appeared that the Porte could not have been peremptorily called upon to attend to the protest.

The second point to be examined was the question of the benefit or detriment to be expected from the quay in the operations of vessels trading with Smyrna; and I would wish here to express to your Lordship the obligations under which I lie to Admiral Hobart for his kindness in accompanying me to Smyrna, and his care in examining the works already done and the plans of those still to be made, which enables me to speak with a confidence that I could not otherwise have pretended to.

In the spring of 1868, when the Concession to the Quay Company had been granted, but the works not yet commenced, their utility being much discussed, I requested Admiral Lord Clarence Paget, at that time Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, on a visit to Constantinople, to have the goodness to give me his opinion on the subject, and I inclose a copy of the Report which I then received from him.

He considered, as your Lordship will perceive, that the project as it then stood would be the reverse of advantageous to trade; but he suggested the formation of a port which would render it beneficial, by enabling ships to lie alongside the quay.

The mere fact of the quay seeming, even to such a competent judge, likely to prove an inconvenience, was of itself insufficient to entitle foreign Representatives to declare authoritatively that a work for which a Concession was already granted should not be put into execution, unless it was in contravention of some Treaty right; but in repeated representations which I made to the Porte I insisted that unless a sufficient space was left for the free passage of goods to and from the custom-house, which I did not find provided for in the Concession, the quay dues would become obligatory upon all, and as such would constitute a violation of the Treaty.

I made known at the same time, both to the Porte and to the promoters of the quay, the opinion given by Lord Clarence Paget, inviting them, in the interest of the trade of the place, to give effect to his suggestion; but it was not till I reached Smyrna that I was aware how effectually this had been done; a harbour far more complete than anything he had contemplated, sheltered from all winds and capacious enough to contain a very large number of ships, being already considerably advanced in construction.

It seems to me not to admit of a question that when the whole is completed—and the works are being pushed on with an energy never before seen in this country—the quay will prove a benefit of no trifling kind.

Instead of having to load and discharge by means of lighters while lying exposed to strong winds, ships will be able to perform that operation upon a protected quay, connected by a railway both with the custom-house and the two railway-stations, and the captains will certainly be glad to avail themselves of the facility, provided the quay dues are not made too heavy, which, under the present Tariff, they appear upon some articles to be.

In consequence of the representations which, as I have stated, were made upon the necessity of keeping a free space before the custom-house, an additional Article was added to the Concession, by which "about 100 pics," or 250 feet, were to be left free, and this, although restricted, may probably, if fairly measured, be found sufficient when the great bulk of the goods pass by the new quay, as they no doubt will when the facilities offered by it are complete.

When, however, I came to examine the place, I found, as had been represented to me by Mr. Cumberbatch, that, by an artifice of measurement, the free space before the custom-house had been materially and improperly reduced below its guaranteed limit;

and I propose, without loss of time, to call the attention of the Porte to the abuse, and being now myself in a position to testify to the justice of the complaints of the mercantile body upon this head, I trust that there will not be much difficulty in getting it remedied.

Complaints were also made to me of the quay dues being enforced by the Company before the works were in a sufficiently forward state to confer any benefit, and I have already represented this grievance to the Porte and to the Governor-General of Smyrna.

In conclusion, I am bound to say that the quay is a work of public improvement, conceived on a scale and executed with a solidity for which I was by no means prepared. Extending for a length of nearly 2 miles, at a cost of about 400,000*l.*, and reclaiming ground adapted to the erection of dwellings and warehouses, it is destined to effect an entire change in the aspect of the place, and might be regarded with entire satisfaction if it were not for the injuries which it must cause to many individuals, and if a greater amount of free accommodation at the custom-house had been reserved.

During the process of construction it constitutes an almost unmixed inconvenience both to individuals and commerce; the access to the houses and stores being impeded, and the drains injured and choked, while even afterwards those whose property is cut off from the sea, and who have not the means of securing the reclaimed land, will be permanent sufferers.

During the last five years the subject has received the constant attention of Her Majesty's Embassy, and the modifications which have been made in the original scheme are evidence of my efforts not having been without important results.

Since writing the above, I have received from Admiral Hobart the accompanying Report conveying his opinion of the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Admiral Lord Clarence Paget to Sir H. Elliot.

"*Psyche*," *at Sea, off Cape Matapan, February* 27, 1868.

Sir,

IN accordance with the wishes expressed in your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant, that I should give my opinion on some points connected with a proposal for the construction of a quay at Smyrna, I repaired to that port, and, furnished with the sketch plan accompanying your Excellency's letter, I examined the site in company with Mr. Consul Cumberbatch on the 24th instant.

I also invited the British merchants, shipping agents, and others interested in the trade of that port, to meet and express their views on the project.

Mr. Alfred Barker, who represented the Company to whom the Concession has been granted by the Turkish Government to construct the quay, attended the meeting which took place on board the "Psyche" on the 25th.

Passing over various complaints on the part of the British merchants as to the amount of the Tariff proposed to be charged as quay dues, as well as to the deterioration of private property and other inconveniences attending the scheme, all of which might apparently be settled by arbitration, I will proceed to state my opinion upon the two points on which your Excellency requested it, viz.:—

1. Whether the objections that the quay will not be of use to the shipping interests, being too much exposed for vessels to venture to lie alongside it, so that lighters will consequently have, as formerly, to be used in loading and discharging cargoes, be valid; and

2. As to the general advantage or disadvantage of the project as it affects foreign trade.

The quay will run in an irregular line from north-north-east to south-south-west along the sea front of the town, and during westerly winds shipping moored alongside will be exposed to the full force of the sea on their broadsides.

In the summer months the "inbat," or sea breeze, is occasionally very strong, blowing directly on the quay, and during the winter months Smyrna is sometimes visited by heavy gales from the north-west and south-west, the extent of the harbour towards the west being about 4 miles; there is sufficient sea during strong westerly winds to make it imprudent for vessels to lie alongside the quay.

I am of opinion, therefore, that the quay, as shown in the plan, will be of no practical value to merchant-ships.

It appears by the plan that a mole is to run in a northerly direction about 800 feet, forming the custom-house harbour. This will give shelter to a few vessels during the "inbat," or sea breeze, and two or three large ships will be able to lie alongside it for the purpose of loading or discharging cargoes, but it will give no protection from northerly winds. The harbour of Smyrna, however, only extends about 2½ miles to the northward of the town, which would not allow of a sea getting up sufficiently heavy to cause any great amount of disturbance to vessels inside the mole.

I am of opinion that this mole will be of some value to the foreign trade, provided a sufficient depth of water, say 25 feet, be maintained alongside it.

I have thus far strictly confined myself to the plan provided by your Excellency, but I believe that with some modifications the project might become of great benefit to foreign trade.

1. If, in addition to the proposed mole, a second mole were carried from the point P in a south-westerly direction for some 1,200 or 1,300 feet, and the space within were maintained at a depth of 25 feet, a good safe and fairly capacious harbour would be provided; or

2. If several wooden jetties were carried out in a westerly direction from the quay for 400 feet, vessels might safely lie on each side, hauling off to their anchors in the event of bad weather; or

3. If the mole shown in the plan were extended, it would become of greater utility.

Mr. Alfred Barker stated, on behalf of the Company, that it is intended to carry out three piers with T heads, in accordance with the second of these proposals.

It will be necessary also that one or more sheltered places be provided for landing and shipping coals, and for boats.

Unless some modifications, which will admit of vessels lying alongside the quay, be carried out, I am of opinion that the project will be rather detrimental than otherwise to the interests of foreign trade, inasmuch as the custom-house quay, in extent about 600 feet, is now open to all lighters without quay charges, whereas the Company, by their Concession, will have the power to levy dues on all lighters using the custom-house quay, thus imposing on the merchants a charge from which they are at present exempt.

In conclusion, I can assure your Excellency that I found all the British community actuated by the fairest spirit in discussing this question, and very grateful to your Excellency, as well as to myself, for the interest shown in their welfare on this occasion.

The inclosures to your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant are returned as requested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Hobart Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Constantinople, February 22, 1873.

Sir,

HAVING been requested by your Excellency to accompany you to Smyrna, with the object of reporting on the advantages or disadvantages that will accrue to commerce from the existence of a quay such as now in the course of construction at that place, I beg to state that, after having carefully examined that work as far as it has gone, and having seen plans of its proposed proportions when finished, I am of opinion that it will prove to be of the greatest possible service to vessels trading to Smyrna.

I found my opinions on the following grounds:—

In the first instance, Smyrna, before the building of the quay was commenced, was an open port, exposed to winds from more than half the points of the compass, with shores much unprotected, and vessels were frequently prevented, through a heavy sea running, from landing and embarking their cargoes, whereby much delay was caused. The existence of a quay, and its accompanying port, will make a great change in this respect.

2. The large harbour or port which is in construction as part of the scheme of the quay will afford protection from all winds to a large number of vessels; and

Lastly, the communication by rail which is to be established from the different landing-places along the quay to the principal railway terminus will be of immense

advantage. The space left in accordance with the existing arrangements entered into with the foreign Governments is at present too limited; it seems as if the Quay Company had encroached upon its rights in having taken possession of too much sea frontage at that spot.

The depth of water alongside the quay and inside the port being from 20 to 30 feet, is as much as can be required; and in my opinion it is clear that, when the works are finished, Smyrna will become the finest harbour for commerce in the Ottoman Empire. The question of deficient drainage from the town through the quay into the sea, as well as that of the alleged hardships done to individual interests through the quay having been laid down in front of their residences, are points on which, I believe, your Excellency does not wish me to offer an opinion.

In conclusion, I would state that the works, so far as they have progressed, appear to be solid and well designed, and that the greatest energy is being employed in pushing them forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOBART PASHA, *Admiral.*

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 20. Commercial.)
Constantinople, February 27, 1873.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18, Commercial, of the 26th ultimo, upon the complaints which the merchants of Smyrna have made in regard to the new quay, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I have this day addressed to Khalil Pasha, pointing out to him the grievances which I have already notified to your Lordship, and calling upon him to insist that the promises conveyed by the memorandum inclosed in his note of the 2nd instant should be faithfully carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to Khalil Pasha.

Constantinople, February 27, 1873.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of the 2nd instant, inclosing a memorandum on the Smyrna quay.

A visit to that town has enabled me by personal inspection to investigate the justice of the complaints that have been made by the mercantile community of the place; and I cannot but express my regret that the satisfaction which a great work of public improvement is calculated to inspire should be counterbalanced by the insufficiency of the protection which has been afforded to the public and private interests affected by it.

By the memorandum sent by your Excellency the Sublime Porte has renewed the engagement already taken upon two distinct and important points. The dues to be charged by the Quay Company are in no respect to exceed the amount which it has hitherto cost the masters of ships to load and unload their vessels by means of "mahonnes," or lighters; and a free access of 100 pics is to be left before the custom-house for the passage of goods not intended to pass over the quay.

I am in a position to affirm that neither of these engagements is now being carried out; and I have therefore the honour to invite your Excellency to insist, without loss of time, that they should both of them be punctually adhered to for the future.

The Tariff of the quay dues is, on many articles, enormously in excess of the former cost of landing them in lighters, and the free approach to the custom-house of "about 100 pics" has not been preserved according to the plain meaning of the words.

The legitimate amount of these dues being entirely dependent upon the cost hitherto entailed by the use of lighters, the proposal of the mercantile community that this should be ascertained by means of a Commission, upon which their body should be represented, appears so reasonable that I cannot doubt that your Excellency will agree to that arrangement, so that a stop may be put to the levying of dues in excess of the amount within which the Sublime Porte has engaged to keep them.

With regard to the space of 100 pics which were to have been left free in front of the custom-house, your Excellency will be surprised to learn that, by an artifice of measurement, to which the Sublime Porte has certainly not been a party, the space so left has, in point of fact, been made very much less than what, according to the plain signification of the words, it ought to have been, so that the engagement towards the Representatives is not at the present moment fulfilled.

The Quay Company, by including in their measurement the irregularities of the existing custom-house jetty, may have left a zigzag line of possibly 100 pics, but nothing like that space is left available to the public, according to the natural meaning of the engagement, which cannot be understood otherwise than applying to 100 pics measured in a straight line.

The 100 pics, even if honestly measured, would be a very restricted amount for the requirements of the trade of an important port, and it is therefore essential that it should not be fraudulently and improperly still further reduced; and I trust that your Excellency will not hesitate to insist that the distance shall be calculated by a straight line drawn from the end of the present custom-house jetty to the point when that line may strike on the new quay.

Some of the latter would thus be included within the free space, but if, as would appear, the Company has constructed it where they were not entitled to do so, they will have no grounds for complaint at being obliged to give it up; and an inspection of the locality, and an examination of the official map of the project, make it perfectly clear that the good faith of the Imperial Government has been imposed upon.

If the works had been executed upon the sanctioned plans which your Excellency has been obliging enough to allow me to examine, the space left free, calculated in a straight line, as was, no doubt, the intention of the Imperial Government, would have been about the amount which was agreed upon, and even if it should be a little more, it would still have come within the elastic meaning of "100 pics environ," which is the expression used in the contract. If a confirmation were needed of the alteration having been irregularly made, it would be found in the fact, of which I was informed at Smyrna, that the unauthorized portion was filled up in the night, before the public was aware of what was going on.

With my experience of the fidelity with which the Sublime Porte adheres to its engagements, I feel convinced that the circumstances which I have now brought to your Excellency's knowledge will insure the immediate remedy of what is unquestionably a gross abuse.

I have, in a former communication, represented to your Excellency the injustice of allowing the Company to levy the dues while the quay, far from being a benefit to any one, is still only an inconvenience and a nuisance; but I must again be permitted to repeat that, the imposition of dues being only justified as a return for service rendered, as long as the Quay Company is not in a position to render the services for which they are paid, I must protest against their being exacted upon the goods of Her Majesty's subjects.

If it is said that this objection will cease when the quay is completed, I must decline to accept the argument as a justification of the continuation of even a temporary injustice.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 36. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, March 19, 1873.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the note which you addressed to Khalil Pasha, a copy of which is inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 20, Commercial, of the 27th ultimo, with reference to the question of the new Smyrna quay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)

Smyrna, January 8, 1874.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I have addressed to Rashid Pasha, in consequence of finding that nothing had been done to remedy the grievances connected with the construction of the new Smyrna quay, to which I had drawn attention nearly a year ago.

I may add that since my last visit Her Majesty's Consulate has been made almost entirely uninhabitable by the Company having deliberately filled up the outlet of the drains, thus forcing back the whole of the sewage into the premises, by which the health of all the inmates had more or less suffered, the Consul having been obliged to remove his family to the country.

The Governor-General having admitted to me that the law did not sanction the stopping up of private drains, I insisted upon the right of Her Majesty's Consulate to have them opened, and his Excellency ultimately consented to cause the sewers to be carried into the main drain which is being constructed by the Company, orders to that effect being given in my presence to the Municipality.

Of the ultimate benefit of the new quay there can be no doubt; but the works are being carried out with a neglect of private interests, including those of Her Majesty's Consulate, which makes it necessary to resort to strong protests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to Rashid Pasha.

Smyrna, January 8, 1874.

Sir,

IN a recent communication to your Excellency I expressed the hope that I might receive a reply to the note which, nearly a year ago, I addressed to your Excellency's predecessor about the Smyrna quay.

I had then pointed out that the engagements which had been taken by the Sublime Porte with regard to the space to be kept free before the custom-house had not been obtained, and that the Quay Company were allowed to levy dues upon portions of the quay which were not completed.

Although no written answer was returned to me, I was repeatedly assured that my representations were regarded as well founded, and that the grievances which had given rise to the complaints of the merchants should be remedied.

Your Excellency will therefore understand that it is not without much surprise that, upon arriving at Smyrna, I have found that nothing whatever had been done by the Sublime Porte to redeem its pledge, and that, in some respects, things were even worse than they were a year ago.

The custom-house quay has not been touched, the free access being kept as restricted as ever, and the Quay Company are allowed to levy dues when their works, instead of being a benefit, are an absolute nuisance to commerce.

In addition to this, the port which had been promised as a necessary supplement to render the quay beneficial to shipping is permitted to remain at a standstill, the works which were commenced being only sufficient to force vessels to lie at a greater distance from shore, and thus to increase their exposure in loading and discharging their cargoes.

Your Excellency will, I trust, recognize the necessity of giving directions, without further loss of time, to his Excellency the Governor-General (1) to take the requisite measures to insure to the custom-house the free access which the Sublime Porte had promised to maintain; (2) to oblige the Company to complete their works when they have built the sea-wall and levy dues, leaving a free access over all such parts as are unfinished; and (3) to complete the artificial harbour, instead of leaving it in a condition which only adds to the inconvenience to which the construction of the quay subjects the shipping interests; and I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.

(No. 7. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, January 24, 1874.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the note addressed by Sir H. Elliot to Rashid Pasha, of which a copy is inclosed in his Excellency's despatch No. 3, Commercial, of the 8th instant, with regard to the delay which has occurred in remedying the grievances connected with the construction of the new Smyrna quay.

They also approve the steps taken by his Excellency, as reported in the above-mentioned despatch, to put a stop to the interference which had taken place with the drainage of Her Majesty's Consulate at Smyrna.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 49. Commercial.)

Constantinople, May 18, 1875.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador has spoken to me in reference to the wish of the Messrs. Dussaud, the concessionnaires and constructors of the new Smyrna quay, to obtain a modification of the conditions under which the quay dues are to be levied.

In the various points which have arisen in connection with this question during the last seven years, there has always been a difference of opinion between the French Representatives and those of the other Governments, who have felt bound to uphold the interests and rights of the commercial community, while the former has advocated those of the very respectable French firm which is carrying on the works.

It had been at first intended that the quay should be carried in front of the custom-house, and that all goods, even if merely passing over it to or from lighters, should be liable to the payment of the dues. This was resisted, and a representation from most of the Embassies that such a charge, unless a service was rendered, would be inadmissible, was at last followed by a formal engagement from the Porte that a certain, though restricted, approach to the custom-house should be left free.

The present proposal of the Company is to bind themselves notably to diminish the quay dues if they are permitted to carry it past the custom-house, so that all goods shall be liable to them, and the mercantile community of Smyrna appear to be divided in opinion as to the propriety of accepting or rejecting it, the bulk of the foreign merchants being favourable and the majority of the English hostile to the proposal, although, apparently, not very decidedly so.

I inclose the copy of their letter to Mr. Consul Cumberbatch on the subject, which was sent to me by him some months ago, since which time I have been expecting that some definite communication respecting it would be made by the Porte.

The full benefit of the quay will soon be felt, for the protected harbour is in progress, and the rails connecting it with the custom-house are now being laid; and the general impression of the merchants, with the exception of the British, being that the quay will offer great facilities for the loading and discharging of ships, and that it would be very desirable to secure a diminution of the dues, I should probably stand alone among my colleagues in resisting such a proposal as was spoken of to me by Count de Vogüé, if it should be formally made by the Porte.

Your Lordship will probably, under the circumstances, not think it desirable that I should stand out against it if the 'Tariff' of dues is reduced to what the merchants may consider a satisfactory rate.

This quay will, I believe, form one of the most important improvements that has been undertaken in this country. Many of those who were at first opposed to it have greatly modified their opinion; and it would be undesirable to do anything which might tend to discourage other attempts to carry out such works of public utility.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Mr. Patterson to Consul Cumberbatch.

Smyrna, December 17, 1874.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge, and thank you for, your letter in answer to the one I took the liberty of addressing to you in the early part of to-day. The two numbers of the "Impartial" I return to you herewith, with the expression of my thanks, as well as of those for whose benefit these papers were forwarded, for your prompt and courteous response to the request addressed to you.

With reference to the resolution adopted by the British merchants of this place at the meeting held here on the 10th instant (whereof you have been furnished with a copy of the minutes), I feel it to be my duty to acquaint you that, in consequence of explanations and considerations which have been brought to bear on the position then assumed by us, another meeting was held by us to-day, when it was resolved to modify the resolution above referred to, and that it shall stand amended as follows:—

"That the overture in regard to the reduction of quay rates, based on the abandonment of the 100 pics of free quay at the custom-house conceded by the Imperial Government to the commerce of this city, cannot be entertained by us unless a formal and satisfactory proposition be submitted to us by the Société des Quais for our consideration, such proposition being considered indispensable before we can commit ourselves to any abandonment of quay privileges now existing at the custom-house."

To clear ourselves of the charge of any inconsistency, I may mention that this modification of our first resolution has been adopted chiefly with a view to facilitate diplomatic action at the Porte, and in a spirit of deference to the opinion of the majority of the merchants of other nations trading here, like ourselves, in virtue of Treaty rights.

Those at a meeting held two days since at the European Casino expressed themselves favourable to the proposals of the Quay Company; however, it is worthy of mention that the commercial interests at this port represented by us render the British vote of more importance than the aggregate one of all the other communities who apparently seem to entertain views at variance with our own, as expressed by the majority of our merchants; and probably it is still more worthy of consideration that the commerce of the parties who so readily declare themselves in favour of the "Société des Quais de Smyrna," are those connected with French, Austrian, and Italian commerce, nearly all of whom are subjected to an onerous system of lighterage, exacted by the agencies of Continental Steam-boat Companies, whose charges are double, and in some cases treble, of the free system which prevails in connection with British commerce here. I have to apologize for troubling you with these remarks. At the same time, I shall hope that they may not seem to you unworthy of being reproduced in any correspondence you may have with Sir Henry Elliot in regard to the proposals of the French Company, and I would further beg of you to convey to his Excellency the expression of our deep sense of gratitude for the eminent services he has already rendered us in this important matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. B. PATTERSON.

No. 16.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 35. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, May 31, 1875.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 49, Commercial, of the 18th instant, with its inclosures, relative to the question of the dues to be levied by the Smyrna Quay Company; and I now have to state to you that the interests involved in this question are of so local a nature that Her Majesty's Government would not feel justified in giving any precise instructions in the matter.

They therefore confidently trust to your Excellency's judgment and fairness in following a course which would secure to the British merchants the advantages to which they may be fairly entitled, without unduly interfering with a work of public utility.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 17.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 9. Commercial:)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1877.

PORTE offers on behalf of Smyrna Quay Company certain advantages, including a reduction of 30 per cent. in existing quay dues Tariff, in return for retrocession of space left free of quay dues for foreign commercial requirements at Smyrna. British merchants accept Company's proposals, but object to reduction as being in reality, according to their calculation, 8 per cent. only. May I agree to retrocession of space in question, provided Porte engages to satisfy them in this respect also? Case being urgent, I beg your Lordship's instructions by telegraph on this latter point. Sir Henry Elliot is acquainted with general question, and can give ample information.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 13. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1877, 4·40 P.M.

I HAVE referred to Sir H. Elliot your telegram of the 28th instant, and I now authorize you to agree to the proposed arrangement respecting the quay at Smyrna, provided that you obtain from the Porte an engagement that, when the quay passes into their hands after the expiration of the term of the Company's Concession, the quay dues shall not be raised without a free passage to the custom-house being restored.

No. 19.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 10. Commercial.)

Constantinople, March 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two copies of the Report which has been received from the Committee of Merchants at Smyrna upon the offer made to them by the Quay Company of substantial advantages by reducing the Tariff and by improving the condition of the town, in return for the cession of that portion of the quay opposite the custom-house upon which, under the former arrangement, no dues could be levied.

The Committee in their Report agree on the whole to M. Dussaud's proposal, but they assert that the reduction of Tariff offered by him amounts in reality only to 8 per cent. instead of 30 per cent., as was promised; and they demand a further reduction of 50 per cent. in favour of ships not loading or discharging alongside the quay.

I have referred the first point to the appreciation of a disinterested leading merchant of Constantinople, who will be able to determine whether the assertion put forward in the Report can be maintained.

As to the second, Mr. Vice-Consul Joly informs me that, on account of the defective state of the drainage of that part of the town, and the discharge of sewage into the basin through which there is no current, the approach of vessels to the quay is sometimes rendered impossible, and it is to meet the additional expense incurred for lighterage on such occasions that the demand is made. I am, however, assured that the removal of this inconvenience is one of the projected improvements above alluded to.

The Porte, being under an engagement to pay a heavy indemnity to the Company for the amount of quay left free of dues, is anxious that this matter should be speedily settled, and I therefore telegraphed to your Lordship on the subject a few days ago, requesting authority to enable me to sanction the abandonment of the free part of the quay upon receiving a formal engagement that the wishes of the merchants, as expressed in their Report, should be complied with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Rapport de la Commission nommée le 18 Décembre, 1876, dans la Réunion tenue au Consulat d'Angleterre, pour prendre connaissance des propositions de la Société des Quais relatives aux 100 pics de Douane libre.

Messieurs,

LE Consulat de Sa Majesté nous ayant convoqués, le 18 Décembre dernier, à l'effet de nous soumettre les propositions relatives aux 100 pics de douane libre, que la Société des Quais a adressées à notre Ambassade à Constantinople, sollicitant son approbation pour ce qui concerne le commerce Anglais de Smyrne, vous avez, après une discussion prolongée, posé la question suivante :—

"Devons-nous abandonner les 100 pics de douane libre si, en retour, nous pouvons obtenir des avantages satisfaisants pour la ville et pour le commerce ?"

A cette question notre assemblée a répondu par l'affirmative, et, en conséquence, vous avez nommé une Commission chargée d'étudier les propositions de la Société des Quais, et de vous en faire connaître le résultat.

Votre Commission, qui en avait accepté le mandat, a l'honneur de vous présenter aujourd'hui son Rapport. Vous lui permettrez de remonter un peu haut, faisant équitablement la part de chacun, afin de mieux justifier ses conclusions.

I. La situation déplorable de la ville par ses abords du côté de la rade, demandait impérieusement un remède. Nous regrettons d'avoir à dire que tout le mal dont on avait à se plaindre provenait du Gouvernement. Au lieu de tracer à chaque riverain qui voulait s'étendre, la ligne qu'il devait suivre, la limite qu'il ne devait point franchir pour conserver une certaine régularité et faciliter la circulation, l'autorité les forçait à des achats successifs, sans mesure et sans ordre. Il en était résulté un chaos, un véritable labyrinthe, et rien que par la contrebande, que cet état de choses favorisait, le Trésor perdait chaque année au moins le quadruple de ce que l'Etat avait, par ces ventes désordonnées, perçu en une seule et unique fois. Nous ne parlerons point de ces cessions de même espace de mer doubles et triples qui se faisaient en même temps ici qu'à Constantinople, et qui amenaient des difficultés, des ennuis, des procès, et de sérieux sacrifices de temps et d'argent. En ce moment encore les riverains sont appelés contre toute justice à payer la valeur des terrains qui doivent servir aux rues parallèles, lorsque ces rues ne se font qu'au bénéfice de la Société Dussaud.

Le projet des Quais vit alors le jour et une Concession fut obtenue. Ce ne fut pas la Société actuelle qui la sollicita. Au contraire, l'affaire mal engagée et devenue onéreuse pour les promoteurs, on fut heureux de rencontrer MM. Dussaud, Frères, qui consentirent à s'en charger. D'abord simples contractants, ils finirent peu à peu par en être les concessionnaires. Ces messieurs sont donc hors de cause vis-à-vis de ceux parmi les propriétaires qui peuvent avoir souffert au début.

La Concession telle qu'elle avait été accordée, sans une étude préalable, sans consulter suffisamment les divers intérêts qui y étaient engagés, souleva dès qu'elle fut connue une opposition très-vive. Cette opposition était naturelle et parfaitement justifiée. Les riverains qui souvent avaient dû acheter contre leur gré perdaient les avantages que leur procurait la jouissance immédiate de la mer, et le commerce avait à subir une aggravation de charges. Avec la transformation que le télégraphe et la vapeur ont introduite dans ses opérations, la plus stricte économie est imposée au négociant, et si dans l'avenir un effet salutaire en toutes choses pouvait et devait se faire sentir par suite de l'exécution du projet, le présent avait lieu de s'en émouvoir. Il y avait en même temps à considérer la teneur des Traités de Commerce, et ceux-ci donnaient raison aux opposants.

Les riverains, faute d'entente ou de moyens de faire accueillir leurs réclamations, durent se résigner et accepter le fait accompli. Le commerce porta les siennes à Constantinople, et grâce à l'active intervention de Sir Henry Elliot, notre Ambassadeur, basée sur les Traités, une modification de la Concession primitive intervint. Nous saisissons avec empressement cette occasion pour lui adresser l'expression publique de notre gratitude. Cent pics de douane libre furent accordés à l'embarquement et au débarquement, et c'est sur leur rétrocession ou leur maintien qu'il s'agit aujourd'hui de se prononcer.

II. Il est indubitable que ces 100 pics de douane libre sont très-utiles au commerce ; le mouvement d'entrée et de sortie en témoigne. Chiffres ronds 131,400 tonneaux y ont passé pendant l'année 1876, tandis que le port créé par MM. Dussaud n'en a eu que 126,000. C'est le cabotage qui alimente principalement ce dernier et la grande navigation qui profite de l'autre. Le maintien de ces 100 pics dans leur état

actuel de franchise est donc, sous les réserves que votre Commission formulera plus loin, d'utilité publique. On laisserait prendre à chacun la voie qui lui conviendrait, on ne forcerait point les volontés, et en ne fermant pas tout autre issue et dégagement, on aurait prise sur l'Administration des Quais, que l'on obligerait ainsi à ne pas dépasser certaines limites si jamais il lui en prenait envie.

D'autre part, une entreprise comme celle des quais ne saurait se développer et produire tous ses bons effets si une aussi large porte demeurait ouverte à son préjudice, et l'on comprend que MM. Dussand, Frères, avant d'y engager de nouveaux capitaux, cherchent à consolider leur terrain.

On voit que, dans leur situation respective, deux intérêts sont en présence. Heureusement, ils ne sont pas ennemis l'un de l'autre, et il s'agit de les amener à s'entendre pour que chacun obtienne le but qu'il a plus particulièrement en vue.

Mais il y a plus : à côté du commerce et de la Société des Quais, il y a la ville—une ville de 200,000 habitants—et elle aussi sollicite et réclame. Ce troisième intérêt, d'une importance capitale, a attiré spécialement notre attention ; il jette à notre avis un poids décisif dans la balance, et si on lui donnait satisfaction, comme il est en droit de l'exiger, la question changerait d'aspect. Il ne faudrait plus discuter, mais se féliciter d'une solution qui serait un véritable bienfait pour le public en général. Votre Commission veut parler de la construction des égouts et du pavage.

Nous ne nous écartons point de l'objet sur lequel l'office de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté en date du 28 Novembre, 1876, vous demande de vous prononcer. Egouts et quais se tiennent et n'en font qu'un. Si le Gouvernement à l'époque de la première Concession avait accordé quelque attention aux besoins de notre ville, il ne les aurait jamais séparés. Il aurait fait de la construction des égouts une condition indispensable de celle des quais. Le projet aurait ainsi embrassé les deux entreprises, et au lieu de rencontrer de l'opposition, il aurait obtenu notre concours et notre reconnaissance.

Ce qui n'a pas été fait alors peut et doit être fait aujourd'hui. La situation est intolérable ; la santé publique est compromise au plus haut degré. A la première pluie, les égouts débordent, et nos rues se transforment en cloaques. Des amas de corruption infectent l'atmosphère et répandent la maladie et la mort. Les plaintes dont la masse a formé cette opinion hostile que les ennemis de la Turquie savent si bien exploiter, et dont nous souffrons à notre tour, se rapportent en grande partie à l'abandon auquel les populations ont été laissées. Partout absence complète de volonté administrative, de direction, de protection ; le désordre en a été la conséquence, et il est devenu l'état normal du pays. Une nouvelle ère commence enfin pour cet Empire, et nous espérons que Smyrne sera la première à s'en ressentir.

Mais cette nouvelle entreprise qui se relierait à celle des quais pour la compléter, exige de nouveaux capitaux, et votre Commission a cherché les moyens d'y pourvoir : elle propose donc, en premier lieu, que le Gouvernement abandonne en sa faveur le 12 pour cent qu'il s'est réservé dans la Concession accordée à MM. Dussand. Ce prélèvement représente près de £ T. 3,600 par an, et la ville de Smyrne et le commerce de Smyrne ont le droit de demander qu'il ne soit point distrait de son attribution légitime. Taxe tout-à-fait locale, il est juste qu'elle ne soit appliquée qu'à des améliorations locales, d'autant plus que celles-ci sont urgentes et indispensables, et que le Gouvernement retire déjà de la construction des quais, en même temps qu'un bénéfice moral, un bénéfice pécuniaire important par le fait de la cessation de la contrebande.

Cette somme de £ T. 3,600 par an est un appoint considérable, mais il est loin de suffire. Votre Commission poursuivant sa recherche s'est arrêté sur un impôt volontaire de 4 paras par quintal de marchandise, soit 2 piastres par tonne, passant par la douane à l'entrée aussi bien qu'à la sortie, et qui donnerait actuellement près de £ T. 6,000. Avant de fixer ses idées là-dessus elle s'est informée auprès de plusieurs personnes pour en avoir l'opinion, et elle les a trouvées on ne peut plus favorables à son adoption. Elle s'y est donc arrêtée avec confiance. Si son plan est définitivement adopté, le commerce donnera une preuve des sentiments de libéralité qui l'animent, et il dotera une population de 200,000 âmes, dont il partage la bonne et la mauvaise fortune, d'un appréciable bienfait. Encore une fois, l'air corrompu est indistinctement aspiré par tout le monde ; bien des fois la désolation est entrée dans les familles, et elle leur eut été évitée si une émanation fétide n'eût pénétré dans leur foyer. Etant donné qu'une somme de £ T. 120,000 serait nécessaire pour ces travaux, et que leur achèvement exigerait huit années, la dépense totale en capitale et intérêts serait amortie cinq ans après, c'est-à-dire en 1889. Le commerce serait alors dégagé de la taxe, et la ville continuerait de jouir du 12 pour cent de la Convention Dussand qu'elle appliquerait à des améliorations nouvelles.

111. Nous abordons maintenant l'examen des propositions et du Mémoire de MM. Dussaud. La Société des Quais offre: (1) le transfert de la douane actuelle dans le nouveau port; (2) la construction d'une gare commune aux deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba qu'elle relierait à son tramway. Ce raccordement, d'après le Mémoire, épargnerait au commerce les frais considérables de transport à dos de chameaux ou de portefaix qu'il ne peut éviter aujourd'hui à cause de la distance qui sépare la douane des stations de nos deux voies ferrées; et (3) une réduction de près de 30 pour cent sur le Tarif actuel.

Pour ce qui est de la douane, votre Commission pense que l'emplacement qu'elle occupe, à proximité des bazars et des khans de dépôt, remplit suffisamment son objet. Cependant on pourrait sans inconvénient la rapprocher un peu de nos quartiers, et en la transférant dans le nouveau port en vue des navires qui embarquent ou qui débarquent, les opérations de visite et d'inscription se feraient plus aisément et avec moins de retards. Nous devons remarquer aussi que la douane dans son état présent de construction, d'installation, et d'entretien, est une véritable abomination. Sous ce rapport les plaintes sont unanimes, et il serait hautement à désirer qu'un nouvel édifice, plus à l'abri surtout du danger d'incendie, vint la remplacer. Il est bien entendu qu'on lui accorderait au moins le même espace qu'elle possède en ce moment. Le commerce émet le vœu que cet espace soit agrandi.

Le raccordement des deux chemins de fer avec le tramway de la Société des Quais procurerait des avantages d'agrément à une partie du public. Ceux qui fréquentent les villages de Bournabat, et de Boudja et qui seraient rapprochés de la nouvelle gare, la prendraient volontiers. Il en serait de même pour la plupart des trains de plaisir. Mais votre Commission ne saurait se prononcer avec la même confiance quant à la marchandise. Plusieurs articles qui constituent notre principale ressource: vallonée, coton, laines, raisins, ont besoin de subir avant d'être embarqués des opérations préparatoires. Forcément donc ils doivent pénétrer dans l'intérieur de la ville, et les frais ne sont pas toujours en rapport direct de la distance. Le conducteur qui a fait agenouiller deux fois son chameau pour le charger et le décharger, ne voit pas trop à quelques centaines de mètres de plus ou de moins de chemin à faire. Les différences dans ces cas seraient fort légères. Nous pourrions ajouter plusieurs autres articles à ceux que nous venons de mentionner. Après cela, ce qu'il faut plus particulièrement considérer, comme question très importante, c'est l'encombrement qui pourrait résulter sur les quais, où l'espace est limité, par l'arrivage simultané de trains venant d'Aïdin et d'Alaschar, débarquant parfois dans le courant d'une semaine près de 6,000 tonnes de marchandise, en même temps que les navires venant d'Europe feraient d'un autre côté leurs opérations. Actuellement, le négociant a le droit de tenir sa marchandise en gare, sans frais, pendant six ou sept jours, et nous ne savons si sous le nouveau régime cette faculté pourrait lui être accordée. En même temps le Chemin de Fer de Cassaba qui se trouve quelque peu éloigné, devrait passer sur la ligne d'Aïdin. L'entente serait-elle possible? Sur qui retomberait la dépense du raccordement et celle des expropriations qu'il nécessiterait, de la ligne de Cassaba avec celle d'Aïdin, et quels en seraient pour l'une et pour l'autre les péages? Avant qu'une résolution soit prise, il faudrait que ces questions fussent élucidées.

Il nous reste à parler de la troisième proposition de MM. Dussaud, à savoir d'une "réduction de 30 pour cent sur le Tarif actuel." Assurément une pareille réduction serait on ne peut plus favorablement accueillie par le commerce, et elle mériterait, pour être obtenue, que de son côté il fit des sacrifices; mais d'après un travail important et très détaillé sur ce chapitre fait par Mr. A. O. Clarke, après avoir comparé article par article le Tarif actuel avec le Tarif modifié tel que le propose la Société des Quais, nous sommes arrivés à comprendre que la diminution qu'on nous offre est tout-à-fait illusoire, que le revenu des quais, c'est-à-dire la contribution du commerce serait sous l'empire de l'un aussi bien que de l'autre, à peu près la même. En effet, à l'importation on réduit le Tarif sur vingt articles, mais on l'augmente sur vingt-sept et dix-neuf articles restent intacts. On doit aussi remarquer que la réduction considérable opérée sur le pétrole et la graine de coton, au fond ne signifie rien ou fort peu de chose, attendu que ces deux produits ne passent ni par le nouveau port ni par la douane. A l'exportation, la réduction porte sur onze articles seulement, quinze restent intacts et treize articles subissent une augmentation. Ces calculs ne comprennent point le cabotage. En chiffres, le résultat paraît comme suit :—

	Piastres.
Importation, réduction sur 20 articles	435,721
Exportation, " 11 "	337,019
Réduction totale	772,740
De cette somme il faut déduire pour augmentation, et articles qui ne passent point par les quais	744,110
Il ne resterait donc que	28,633

comme réduction réelle sur le Tarif actuel, à peine 1 pour cent au lieu de 30 pour cent que nous promet le Mémoire. Depuis que ces calculs ont été établis MM. Dussaud nous ont informés que leur intention était de réduire le Tarif sur les grains de 6 à 5 paras par kilog., les raisins et les figues en boîtes d'une piastre à 20 paras, le sucre de 60 à 30 paras par quintal, ce qui produirait en faveur du commerce une somme de 212,754 piastres. La réduction sur le Tarif actuel serait alors réellement de près de 8 pour cent.

IV. Nous pourrions, dans le Mémoire de MM. Dussaud, relever d'autres erreurs et divers points qui ne nous semblent pas suffisamment établis. Il y est dit entre autres: "Les Messageries, le Lloyd, les Compagnies Russe et Italienne ont déjà passé avec MM. Dussaud des contrats pour la manutention de leurs colis, l'entrée et l'amarrage de leurs navires dans le nouveau port." Cela est exact pour les trois premières Compagnies qui en font depuis quelque temps l'expérience; la Compagnie Italienne n'a pas encore passé un pareil contrat. On traite, mais il n'y a pas Traité. Puis le Mémoire ajoute: "Dans quelques jours la Compagnie Mac Iver passera elle aussi une Convention analogue." Or, ce fait non plus ne s'est pas réalisé bien qu'il se soit écoulé six mois, et nous avons pu constater que cette Compagnie Anglaise ainsi que les deux autres du même pavillon qui fréquentent nos mers, Layland et Papayanni, se sont entendues en Angleterre et ont donné des ordres à leurs agents à Smyrne pour que leurs navires n'entrent point dans le nouveau port. Cette résolution serait motivée sur la mauvaise odeur qui s'en exhalerait. Si, comme le prétend le Mémoire, "l'exiguïté des 100 archines devant la douane est une cause perpétuelle de désordres, d'abus, et de difficultés pour le commerce," celui-ci s'éloignera de lui-même de cet espace libre pour venir s'abriter dans le nouveau port; dès lors il serait inutile de s'en préoccuper. L'attraction qu'exerce un avantage quelconque finit toujours par faire abandonner l'endroit où le désavantage est manifeste. C'est là une loi naturelle qu'opère d'elle-même sans avoir besoin de pression. Jusqu'à présent cependant cet effet ne s'est pas assez produit puisque, comme on l'a vu plus haut, le mouvement d'entrée et de sortie est en faveur de la douane libre. Si on pense qu'il se produira plus tard, ce serait une raison de laisser les choses comme elles sont. Sans doute il eut été à désirer que le commerce eût pu s'y mouvoir plus à l'aise: la lutte se serait alors établie dans des conditions plus égales. Mais avec ces 100 pics il peut faire une partie de ses opérations et il doit y tenir, à moins d'entente entre les parties. Quant à l'assertion que "cet espace devient tous les jours d'un abord plus difficile, et que son unique échelle tend à disparaître sans qu'il soit possible au Gouvernement de la remplacer ou d'y apporter la moindre amélioration en vertu de son contrat avec la Société des Quais," elle ne saurait nous inquiéter. Le Gouvernement de la Porte a pris des engagements envers notre Ambassade et il doit tenir à honneur de les exécuter. Il ne les a pas pris certainement dans un esprit déloyal et de tromperie, pour se tirer d'un embarras momentané, se réservant de les méconnaître le lendemain. Sa dignité et son intérêt lui font une obligation de les respecter, et dans le cas où des engagements contraires existeraient envers d'autres, ce serait à celui qui a commis l'erreur de rechercher et de trouver le moyen de la réparer.

V. Votre Commission se résume:

En examinant les pièces qui accordent au commerce de cette ville un espace libre de 100 archines pour ses opérations d'embarquement et de débarquement elle trouve que ce droit lui est parfaitement acquis.

Si des engagements opposés existent pouvant rendre cette acquisition illusoire, c'est au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte d'y porter remède. Dans tout cas contraire notre Ambassade à Constantinople ne manquerait pas d'intervenir activement, et nous avons confiance que ce serait efficacement.

L'offre faite par la Société des Quais de transférer la douane dans le nouveau port, nous semble avantageuse, sous les réserves exprimées plus haut, et avec abri pour la marchandise.

La construction d'une gare commune aux deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba que la Société des Quais relierait à son tramway, aurait des avantages partiels

aussi bien pour le commerce que pour le public en général, étant donné que l'entente entre les chemins de fer et la Société s'établisse, et, bien entendu, ici encore, en ayant égard aux craintes que nous avons émises sur ce sujet.

Une réduction de près de 30 pour cent sur le Tarif actuel serait, pourvu qu'elle fût sérieuse, acceptable pour une solution. Elle donnerait satisfaction à des intérêts légitimes et les oppositions qui se sont manifestées jusqu'ici pourraient bien y trouver un motif de changer d'attitude.

VI. Et maintenant votre Commission conclut :

Les propositions de MM. Dussaud sont de nature à être prises en sérieuse considération aux conditions suivantes :

1. Réduction du Tarif, positive et réelle, de 30 pour cent, d'un commun accord avec le commerce ;

2. La question du transfert de la douane et celle du raccordement des deux chemins de fer élucidées en vue de sauvegarder les divers intérêts qui y sont attachés ;

3. Construction d'abris pour la marchandise qui embarque et qui débarque ;

4. Une bonification de 50 pour cent sur le Tarif réduit accordée aux négociants dans le cas où les bâtiments ne feraient point leurs opérations bord à quai.

Et 5. A la condition absolue et *sine qua non* que le projet d'égouts et de pavage soit adopté et éxécuté.

Dans ce cas votre Commission recommanderait vivement la rétrocession des 100 pics de douane libre pour arriver au but désiré.

Il nous reste un dernier mot à ajouter et votre Commission en aura fini.

MM. Dussaud se montrent à la fin de leur Mémoire confiants dans la raison et dans la justice de notre Ambassadeur. Ils espèrent que l'adhésion et les sympathies de son Excellence pour les améliorations qu'ils proposent ne leur feront pas défaut. MM. Dussaud peuvent également être assurés des nôtres. Nous reconnaissons la manière aisée et loyale avec laquelle ils ont toujours traité les affaires et la largeur de leurs vues, et nous espérons de notre côté que, donnant leur attention aux observations qui précèdent, ils se prêteront ainsi que le Gouvernement à amener une entente qui est de haute utilité publique.

Nous avons, &c.
Les Membres de la Commission,
(Signé) A. EDWARDS, *Président.*
JOHN HONISCHER.
ROB. HADKINSON.
A. O. CLARKE.
ROB. WILKIN.
W. H. CADOUX.

At the meeting held this day at the British Consulate, the Report of the Commission named by the British community respecting the propositions of Messrs. Dussaud, Frères, having reference to the new quay, was adopted, and the said Commission was authorized by the meeting to communicate with the foreign nationalities with a view of obtaining their adhesion to the Report referred to and their co-operation in carrying out the measures therein recommended.

(Signed) STEPHEN JOLY, *Acting Consul.*

Smyrna, February 27, 1877.

No. 20.

Mr. Lister to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, April 10, 1877.

MR. LISTER presents his compliments to Sir H Elliot and is directed by Lord Derby to transmit to him, for such observations as his Excellency may have to offer thereupon, a despatch, with its inclosures, from Mr. Jocelyn, relative to the affairs of the Smyrna Quay Company.*

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* No. 19

No. 21.

Memorandum by Sir H. Elliot.

MR. JOCELYN'S despatch herewith returned is the "amplifyer" of the telegram on which I have already given my opinion.

Mr. Jocelyn appears to have taken steps to ascertain whether the statement that the nominal reduction of 30 per cent. in the Quay Tariff is only in reality 8 per cent. is correct or not, but it seems to me pretty clear that the general plan now proposed by the Company is recognized as likely to be, on the whole, beneficial, and this is also my own opinion.

The British merchants naturally wish to get as much good as possible out of an arrangement which it is important for the Company to make, and advantage may be taken of the present opportunity to insist upon a system of drainage being carried out, although it is a totally distinct question from that of the closing of the free space before the custom-house, which does not affect the drainage in the slightest degree.

If the consent to the closing of the free custom-house space could be made subordinate to the completion of the system for the removal of the sewage, which I rather think was a part of the original plan, an immense benefit will have been conferred by the quay upon the whole population of Smyrna, and the value of the property of most of the British merchants greatly enhanced.

It might, I think, perhaps be advantageous if a Commission was formed at Smyrna, composed of delegates from each of the foreign commercial communities, which should report to the Embassies at Constantinople upon the merits of the proposals of the Company, and of the modifications to be obtained in them.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

April 18, 1877.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 1. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 25, 1877.

I HAVE had under my consideration, in communication with Sir H. Elliot, Mr. Jocelyn's despatch No. 10, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, relative to the proposed arrangement between the British merchants at Smyrna and the Quay Company of that port, and I now have to state that the general plan now proposed by the Company appears likely to be, on the whole, beneficial.

There seems reason to think that advantage might be taken of the present opportunity to insist upon a system of drainage being carried out, although this is a totally distinct question from that of the closing of the free space before the custom-house, which does not affect the drainage.

If the consent to the closing of the free custom-house space could be made subordinate to the completion of the system for the removal of the sewage, a great benefit will doubtless have been conferred by the Quay Company upon the whole population of Smyrna, and the value of the property of most of the British merchants greatly enhanced.

It might, perhaps, be advantageous if a Commission was formed at Smyrna, composed of delegates from each of the foreign commercial communities, which should report to the Embassies at Constantinople upon the merits of the Company's proposals and the modifications to be obtained in them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 23.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Smyrna, December* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the 100 pics of

shore in the port of Smyrna, which have been specially privileged as the space where goods may be landed and shipped free of quay dues, but which exemption appears now to be threatened to be destroyed by the Quay Company of Smyrna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, November 27, 1879.

Sir,

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions, I have the honour to submit the following Report on the subject of the 100 pics of shore within the port of Smyrna, which have for years past served for the shipping and landing of merchandize free from the payment of port or quay dues. The exemption thus enjoyed by the merchants has so frequently formed the subject of correspondence between Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople and this Consulate that it is not necessary for me to enter fully into the details of the question that has arisen out of it, and has long been in dispute between the Quay Company and the mercantile community of Smyrna. It will suffice for me to present a slight sketch of its history, and in particular to indicate the bases on which the claims of the merchants to the 100 pics are founded, the reasons they adduce for the opposition they have offered, and continue to offer, to the pretensions of the Quay Company, the conditions on which they are willing to withdraw that opposition, and the actual position of the question at the present moment.

At the first blush of the matter it appears a somewhat narrow and hardly justifiable proceeding for a small section of the community to set themselves up in opposition to what seems to be the interest of the large majority, and thus to impede the completion of an important public work, which is at once an ornament to the town and a great convenience to its inhabitants. But when it is borne in mind that the individuals in question, though few in number, are the principal citizens of Smyrna, and hold in their hands almost the entire commerce of the place, and that the large additional burden which the Quay Company seeks to impose on commerce would prove most prejudicial to their interests, and is not attended by the prospect of counterbalancing advantages; when it is remembered that exemption from additional or increased imposts in landing or shipping their goods has been guaranteed to them by the highest Ottoman authorities; the question assumes a different aspect. It will be perceived that the opposition they offer is neither factious nor unreasonable, for they have all along consented to withdraw it on the very conditions which the Quay Company originally proposed, but from which they have now receded. It is but the natural opposition offered by men who find themselves called upon to renounce rights and privileges they have enjoyed from time immemorial, and for the advantage of a foreign Company, which refuses them an adequate compensation, although it would benefit from such sacrifice to the extent, it is admitted, of some 17,000*l.* a-year.

It was in accordance with the spirit of the Treaties between Great Britain and the Porte, which stipulate that no further taxes shall be imposed on British commerce in Turkey than those expressly named, that Fuad Pasha, then Grand Vizier, on the 1st April, 1868, the very day that the project for the construction of a port and quay at Smyrna was first sanctioned by the Ottoman Government, addressed a note to Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, in which, after referring to the great advantages and facilities that would accrue to commerce from the realization of this scheme, he gave the Ambassador the assurance that British interests would, in such case, be thoroughly safeguarded, in the following emphatic words:—

"Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que leur occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne. Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point d'obligation pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer et de débarquer, comme aujourd'hui, à la douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage."

In accordance with this engagement, which has been confirmed by subsequent Grand Viziers, and in modification of the terms of the Concession originally granted to the Quay Company, the right of free commerce over a space of the shore, 100 pics in

breadth, immediately in front of the custom-house, was secured for the merchants by the British Ambassador, in which advantage not British subjects alone, but those of all other nations, could fully participate.

Messrs. Dussaud, Frères, who at first were only the contractors for the construction of the quay and port, but eventually became the purchasers of the Concession, had advanced their undertaking a considerable way towards completion, when, finding the merchants were not disposed to relinquish in their favour the right they had always enjoyed of shipping and landing goods free of quay dues, a right now limited to the space of 100 pics, addressed, on the 21st August, 1876, a memorial to Sir Henry Elliot, in which they solicited his sympathy and assistance in support of the great public work they were constructing. They pointed out the difficulties and disadvantages to which the merchants were subject while carrying on their operations over the 100 pics, difficulties which were daily increasing, and admitted of no remedy, owing to the engagement entered into with them by the Porte. They also pointed out the very inconvenient position of the custom-house, in rear of the 100 pics, which they represented to be unapproachable by vehicles, and inaccessible to ships; and they dwelt on the great advantages that would result to commerce by the transfer of the custom-house to their quay. And they proceeded to show that, if this were effected, the maintenance of free traffic over the 100 pics would no longer have a *raison d'être*. The advantages which would then accrue to commerce were represented to be that instead of paying on an average 3 fr. 75 c. per 1,000 kilogs., as at present, the merchants would not have to pay more than 2 fr. 75 c. in the shape of quay dues. They stated, though without explaining how, that the Ottoman Government was a loser of 30,000*l.* a-year under the actual state of things, so that in its own interest, as well as in that of the Quay Company, the free space of 100 pics ought to be suppressed. To compensate the merchants for the retrocession of this piece of free shore, they made the following proposals:—

1. To transfer the custom-house from its present site to the new port.

2. To construct a station to connect the two railways of Aidin and Cassaba by tramways with the new custom-house.

3. To reduce the actual Tariff of the quay by nearly 30 per cent.

These proposals being referred by the Ambassador to this Consulate, a meeting of the British merchants was convened by Mr. Acting-Consul Joly to take them into consideration, and the Committee appointed by them to that end sent in a Report, dated the 27th February, 1877, in which they unanimously declared their readiness to renounce their claim to the 100 pics, provided they could obtain, not only an adequate compensation for commerce, but also some advantages for the town. They combated Messrs. Dussaud's assertion that the maintenance of the 100 pics free of dues was disadvantageous to the general commerce of Smyrna, seeing that in 1876 no less than 131,100 tons of merchandize passed over the free space, while only 126,000 tons passed over the quay, the latter being chiefly from *cabotage*, the former from foreign trade. While maintaining their own right to the 100 pics, they acknowledged it was but natural that the Messrs. Dussaud should endeavour to make the most of the concession they had obtained, which could not be carried out to its full development so long as a door remained open to its prejudice. But this door they declared themselves ready to close, if the Messrs. Dussaud would meet them by a revised and adequately reduced Tariff. If the reduction of some 30 per cent. already proposed by those gentlemen were a real and substantial reduction to that extent, it would be readily accepted: but, on a comparison of the charges made on each article under the Tariff now in force with those proposed by the new scheme, which professed to be on a more moderate scale, it was clearly ascertained that the proposed reduction would be altogether illusory, and that, instead of relieving the merchants to the promised extent of 30 per cent., it would subject them to very nearly the same burden they would now have to bear if the 100 pics were not open to them; while the revenues of the Quay Company would suffer little or no diminution, the Tariff having been so adjusted as to bring in nearly the same yearly return under either system. While lowering the Tariff with one hand, they had raised it with the other. Thus, on imported goods they proposed to reduce their charges on twenty articles, but to increase them on twenty-seven, and on nineteen to leave them as they were. On produce exported the dues were to be reduced on eleven articles, augmented on thirteen, and on fifteen to remain stationary. It was pointed out also that the reductions proposed by the Messrs. Dussaud were not calculated on a system that was fair to the merchants.

The articles on which the principal reductions were to be made were petroleum and cotton-seed, on the former to the extent of 200,250 piastres, on the latter of 137,313 piastres; but as neither of these articles ever passes over the quay, or through the

custom-house of Smyrna, the reduction on them, which professes to favour the merchants to the extent of 337,569 piastres, would be merely nominal. In common fairness, then, these articles should be altogether excluded from the calculation. Yet the reductions on them form seven-sixteenths of the entire amount of the reductions proposed by the Messrs. Dussaud. Their modified Tariff has been very minutely investigated by Mr. Augustus O. Clarke, of Smyrna, who showed in the same Report that the amount of reductions proposed on twenty articles of import was 435,724 piastres, and on eleven articles of export 337,019 piastres. Total amount of reductions, 772,743 piastres.

Mr. Clarke showed also that if the increase proposed on twenty-seven articles of import, and on thirteen articles of export, were added to the reductions proposed on the articles which never pass over the quay, they would make a total of 744,110 piastres, which sum, if deducted from the total reductions stated above, would leave no more than 28,633 piastres as the real reduction which will be effected by the new Tariff proposed by the Messrs. Dussaud, or barely 1 per cent., instead of the 30 per cent. promised by those gentlemen. So that, while they expected to obtain 17,000*l.* a-year from the cession of the 100 pics, the only equivalent they offered was one of 260*l.* sterling! It is true that they signified to Mr. Clarke at that time their intention to reduce the dues on grain, dried fruits, and sugar to such an extent as would raise the total reductions to 212,754 piastres, or to nearly 8 per cent. on the Tariff now in force. But this expression of an intention cannot be regarded as an engagement.

The Committee approved of the other proposals of the Messrs. Dussaud, of the construction of a new custom-house on the quay, as well as of connecting the two railway-stations with the port by means of a tramway. But they declared their opinion that the construction of the quay, and the introduction of the other improvements proposed, would not prove so great a boon to Smyrna as the Messrs. Dussaud anticipated, unless they were accompanied by a proper system of paving and drainage. For the present condition of the city in these respects was deplorable, and improvements were urgently required in the interest of the public health, as well as for the convenience of traffic. These improvements they declared to be absolutely necessary, and an engagement on the part of the Quay Company to effect them was an indispensable condition of the retrocession of the 100 pics. To the foregoing conditions they added that shelter should be provided on the quay for the merchandize landed or to be shipped, and that a reduction of 50 per cent. on the reduced Tariff should be made in cases where vessels, from whatever cause, did not make use of the quay for their operations. This condition they were fully justified in making under the engagement entered into by Fuad Pasha, that no one should be called on to pay dues to the Company who did not choose to make use of the quay.

The conditions specified in this Report were in principle approved of by Her Majesty's Government, who signified on the 25th April, 1877, to Mr. Jocelyn, then Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, their willingness to consent to the retrocession of the 100 pics on the following conditions:—

1. That the existing Tariff of quay dues be reduced in such a manner as shall satisfy all the parties concerned.

2. That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the Concession.

3. That the Porte engages itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the Concession, without restoring the present access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

4. That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed dock the shell which, it is represented, frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

5. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets, and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.

The Porte subsequently declared to the British Embassy that the Quay Company had agreed to accept the conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government.* The question now appeared, therefore, to be settled, and so it was regarded by the Embassy;† yet this much-desired result is still far from being realized. It is true that the fourth condition laid down by Her Majesty's Government has since been fulfilled by opening a wide breach in the mole, on the south side of the dock, so that the sea has now a free passage through it, and thus the offensive effluvia complained of have been to a considerable extent removed. The improvements referred to in the fifth condition have also been partly effected. A new custom-house on the quay is in the course of construction,

* Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Reade, July 7, 1878; see Inclosure 24 in No. 75.
† Ibid., May 6, 1878; see Inclosure 17 in No. 75.

and will shortly be completed, and some progress has been made in the paving and draining of those parts of the town adjacent to the quay which are the property of the Company. But the first and most important condition still remains a dead letter, the Messrs. Dussaud having taken no steps to meet the views of the merchants by a further reduction of the Tariff. So far was this from being the case that, in the spring of 1878, a report became current both at Constantinople and at Smyrna, which was published by the local press as a fact, and countenanced, or at least not contradicted, by the Messrs. Dussaud, that these gentlemen had at length obtained a Firman from the Porte granting them the unconditional control over the 100 pics, in direct violation of the rights conceded to the merchants by the Ottoman Government. A meeting of the merchants was consequently held at this Consulate on the 15th May, under the presidency of Mr. Consul Reade, at which the feeling expressed was one of profound astonishment and dissatisfaction at the threatened attack on their rights, while at the same time it was general in favour of relinquishing the 100 pics on condition of an equitable adjustment of the quay dues, which adjustment, it was hoped, would be effected with as little deviation as possible from the conditions laid down in the Report of the 27th February, 1877. But it was unanimous on this point, that until the proposals of the Messrs. Dussaud had been brought into accordance with those conditions the maintenance of the *status quo* as regards the 100 pics should be rigidly insisted on. The meeting also recorded its fear that the proposed improvements in paving and drainage would not be carried out on a sufficient scale, that they would not be extended to Frank Street, the principal thoroughfare of the town, but would be confined to those portions which, having been redeemed from the sea, had become the property of the Quay Company. They moreover expressed their opinion that if they were to be called upon to relinquish a privilege of the yearly value of 17,000*l.* in favour of the Quay Company, it would be but just and reasonable that they should have the power to examine the new Tariff in detail, "not in a narrow-minded spirit, but fully recognizing the advantages accruing from the new quay," in order to ascertain whether an adequate compensation is offered by the Company for the important privilege they were to be called on to abandon; and they hoped that until such investigation had been made, Her Majesty's Ambassador would take steps to preserve the *status quo*.

The proper adjustment of the Tariff, so as to secure to the merchants a real and substantial compensation for the relinquishment of the 100 pics, is the great difficulty attending the question, for this adjustment can be effected only by a competent Commission, constituted so as to represent all the interests concerned. Rumour, however, credits the Messrs. Dussaud with the endeavour to have the Tariff definitively fixed by the authorities at the capital, without reference to the wishes or interests of the merchants of Smyrna. That their Tariff, even as proposed to be modified, is still exorbitantly high, is proved by a comparison of it with that in force at Alexandria, where, although the outlay in constructing the works was far heavier than at Smyrna, the port charges hardly exceed the half of those proposed by the Quay Company here.* Reference to the tabular view of their modified Tariff, as compared with that now in force and with the dock charges at Liverpool—Tables drawn up with great care by Mr. A. O. Clarke, and the accuracy of which has been admitted by the Messrs. Dussaud—will show that the modified Tariff is also greatly in excess of the charges at the great English port. "With the exception of grain, seed, and valonia, it may be stated," says Mr. Clarke, "that the Smyrna quay dues, without lighterage, are dearer than the Liverpool dock dues, including lighterage, by two-thirds on goods inwards, and eight-tenths on goods outwards, on the majority of articles."

To return to the report of the concession of a Firman to the Messrs. Dussaud. It seemed to be confirmed by the irregular encroachments which the Quay Company were making on the space allotted for the free transit of merchandize, and it excited such general alarm that, on the 22nd May, 1878, the Consular Body met at this Consulate to take the matter into consideration, when they unanimously expressed their dissatisfaction at the actual state of the quay question, and appointed a deputation to wait on the Governor-General for explanations. The Pasha, however, reassured the deputation by stating that he knew of no Firman which could affect the rights of the merchants to land and ship their goods at the 100 pics, as heretofore, and that the dreaded encroachments were only to lay the foundations of the new custom-house on the quay, which could never impede free access to the 100 pics.

Notwithstanding these assurances of the Governor-General, the encroachments have been continued to the present day, so that the space available for lighters in front of the

* *Vide* Consul Reade's despatch of May 16, 1878; see Inclosure 18 in No. 75.

custom-house has been narrowed from 100 to about 60 pics, and the sea outside of it is gradually silting up, in consequence of the operations of the Quay Company, as stated in the remonstrance of the British merchants which I had the honour of handing to your Excellency on the 14th October last. Whether or not those operations are carried on expressly with the view of obstructing the access to the 100 pics of shore, as is strongly suspected by many, I do not pretend to determine; but the fact is, the merchants have lost all faith in the fair and open dealing of the Quay Company. Their fears are not dissipated by the assurances of the local authorities, and they, in general, entertain the conviction that the Quay Company have really obtained a Firman granting them absolute control over the 100 pics, and that, on the completion of the new custom-house, they will arbitrarily close the free space, and insist on the payment of dues, on some new scale not yet made public, on all goods, without exception, landed or shipped at this port. In truth, when the custom-house is transferred to the quay, all goods, even when landed at the 100 pics, must be conveyed to that building, across the quay, and thus, without some special exemption—which, in accordance with the third condition laid down by Her Majesty's Government, the merchants confidently trust will be secured to them—they become liable to the dues imposed by the Company. The conviction as to the arbitrary measures contemplated by the Company is strengthened by the mystery attaching to all its proceedings and intentions, for, to all inquiries on the subject, they will offer no explanation, but uniformly reply that they have to do with the Ottoman authorities alone, and with no one else. They appear to reckon confidently on the support of those authorities to enable them to carry matters with a high hand, as is the custom in this country—to force the entire commerce of Smyrna to resort to their quay, when they can impose on it whatever conditions they please. The merchants have arrived at the conviction that the Messrs. Dussaud do not intend to make any advances towards them. It is now doubted if those gentlemen ever really entertained the intention of making any reduction, beyond the most trifling, in their Tariff. Had they been in earnest in their proposals to Sir Henry Elliot, had they really wished to meet the views of the merchants fairly, and to give them an equitable compensation for the rights they called upon them to relinquish, they would have acted in a straightforward manner, and not have offered terms which, on examination, proved to be utterly fallacious. They would not have made the promise to the ear and broken it to the hope. The proposals, in truth, which they made were far from complimentary to the intelligence of the merchants of Smyrna, who know their own interests too well to be deceived by specious promises of phantom advantages.

The question now remains, How are these long-pending differences to be settled—by the exercise of arbitrary power, or by conciliation and compromise? The time for completing the works, and, therefore, for a settlement, is approaching. Will it be made in accordance with the pledges given by Fuad Pasha and the conditions sanctioned by the British Government, or with the more recent engagements between the Messrs. Dussaud and the Porte? If by a Commission, as suggested, appointed to determine what reduction of the Tariff would give the merchants a fair compensation for their renunciation of the 100 pics, how is that Commission to be constituted, and by whom appointed? The merchants consider their rights are at least as well founded as those of the Quay Company, even if the engagements of the Ottoman authorities are alone taken into consideration, and so much the better founded inasmuch as the engagements made in their favour have not been obtained by other than the ordinary diplomatic influences. Fuad Pasha promised that they should not be called on to pay more for quay dues than it costs them to land and ship their goods by lighters. But they are willing to concede much more. They are ready to make a considerable sacrifice, if the reductions in the Tariff be reasonable, substantial, and permanent. They desire to come to an amicable arrangement, if possible, with the Messrs. Dussaud, although they fear those gentlemen entertain the expectation of being able to override their claims altogether. Should such an attempt be made, they confidently trust that Her Majesty's Government will steadfastly support their rights, and not suffer them to be sacrificed for the advantage of a foreign Company, which would primarily and principally benefit from that sacrifice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 31, 1880.)

(No. 66, Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 20, 1879.

ON my passage through Smyrna in October last the British mercantile community there expressed a wish to see me with reference to the question of the "100 pics," with which your Lordship is probably not unacquainted. I accordingly held a meeting with them, when they placed before me a statement as to the injury to which their interests were exposed by the violation, on the part of the Turkish authorities and of the "concessionnaires" of the Smyrna quays, of the distinct engagement entered into with the foreign merchants and shippers of the port that 100 pics should be left to them opposite the custom-house, on which they might embark and land their goods without payment of the quay dues, until an equitable arrangement could be come to with the Company. They requested me to bring the matter before the Porte, and to insist that measures should be taken to prevent the attempt which they alleged was being made to deprive them of this right.

I instructed Mr. Consul Dennis, who was present at the interview, to inquire fully into the matter, and to send me a Report upon it. This he has done, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of his very able Report, which appears to me to be so complete and impartial, and to justify so entirely the representations of the British merchants and shippers, that I have communicated a copy of it to the Sublime Porte, accompanied by a note, of which I also inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has the honour to request the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the accompanying very full and impartial Report, prepared on his instructions by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, upon the question of the right of foreign merchants and shippers at that port to make use of 100 pics of the shore within it for the landing and embarking of their merchandize, without the payment of the dues claimed by the "concessionnaires" of the quays. The Sublime Porte cannot fail to recognize and respect a right which has been so fully established. It is consequently the duty of Her Majesty's Ambassador to require that the local authorities shall be promptly ordered to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent its infringement, and to restore at once any part of the 100 pics of which British merchants and shippers may have, by any means whatever, been deprived, in such a condition that they may have the complete enjoyment of it. As the Sublime Porte will perceive from the inclosed memorandum, the foreign mercantile and shipping communities at Smyrna are prepared to come to a fair and equitable arrangement with the "concessionnaires" of the quays; but until such arrangement is arrived at, Her Majesty's Government will insist that British subjects shall have the full enjoyment of the right of using the 100 pics in the manner secured to them by formal and solemn engagements on the part of the Sublime Porte, and that, whether as regards the landing or embarkation of their goods, or the passage of such goods through the custom-house, they shall continue to enjoy the rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by them.

Constantinople, December 20, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard, November 27, 1879.

[See Inclosure in No. 23.]

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 13, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 96, Commercial, of the 20th ultimo, with respect to the claims of the British mercantile community at Smyrna to the use of certain portions of the quays without payment of dues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 12. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96, Commercial, of the 20th December last, respecting the case of the Smyrna Quay, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Dennis, stating that it is universally believed that the new custom-house, constructed by Messrs. Dussaud, is about to be handed over to the Ottoman authorities, and that the 100 pics of quay hitherto kept open for free commerce will then be closed by the Porte, and requesting my instructions in that event.

I have lost no time in addressing a strong representation to the Porte on the subject, inquiring why my note of the 20th December last had not been answered, and protesting against any interference with the 100 pics until an arrangement shall have been come to with the "concessionnaires" of the quays.

I have instructed Mr. Dennis to make a formal protest to the Turkish authorities at Smyrna in the event of their carrying out the intention attributed to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, February* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th November last, I have the honour to bring to the notice of your Excellency a report, which is not only current here, but universally believed, that on the 13th March next the new custom-house, constructed by the Messrs. Dussaud, Frères, on the quay of Smyrna, will be handed over to the Ottoman authorities, and that the 100 pics hitherto kept open for free commerce will then be closed by the Porte, in defiance of all their engagements to the contrary made with Her Majesty's Government. I call this a report, but it is not a mere rumour. It comes to me, though not officially, yet with such authority that I cannot entertain any doubt of its truth. It is well known that the old custom-house and the landing-place, 100 pics in width, in front of it, which are to be handed over to the Quay Company in lieu of the new building, have already been sold by that Company to another French firm, but whether any other means of free access to the custom-house will then be afforded to the merchants in place of the 100 pics, as stipulated by Her Majesty's Government on the 18th April, 1877, and agreed to by the Porte on behalf of the Quay Company, has yet to be proved. It is also well known that, on the opening of the new custom-house, a new Tariff of quay dues will be put into force, but what this Tariff may be, whether it will be a "*bonâ fide* reduction of nearly 30 per cent." on the actual Tariff, as promised by the Messrs. Dussaud in their memorial of the 21st August, 1876, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, or will remain as onerous as at present, is still a mystery.

As the time fixed for these changes is so near at hand, I have the honour to request your Excellency's early instructions as to the course I am to pursue in the event of the 100 pics being forcibly closed and free access to the custom-house being barred by the Quay Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12, Commercial, of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch addressed to me by Consul Dennis with reference to the attempt about to be made by the Porte and the "concessionnaires"

of the Smyrna Quay to deprive the foreign mercantile community of that place of the 100 pics of the shore upon which it was formally agreed that they should load and ship their goods free of quay dues until the Tariff question has been settled. I shall address another strong note on the subject to the Porte, protesting against the breach of faith and arbitrary measures, of which Her Majesty's Government have so just a right to complain in this instance, and holding it responsible for all losses and damages accruing to British shipping in consequence. I shall also instruct Mr. Dennis to renew his protest to the local authorities against any interference with the 100 pics.

The conduct of the Porte and of the French "concessionnaires" in this matter shows how necessary it is that Her Majesty's Government should not consent to Mr. Michell's project for the quays on the Golden Horn without such an understanding with the Porte, and such guarantees for its faithful execution as will protect British shipping interests against proceedings similar to those of M. Dussaud at Smyrna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, February 23, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant, in which I informed your Excellency that a report was current at Smyrna that, on the 13th March next, when the new custom-house would be completed and handed over by Messrs. Dussaud to the Ottoman authorities, the 100 pics would be closed, and all the merchants would be compelled to make use of the quay to land and ship their goods, I have the honour to state that I have this morning seen his Highness the Vali on the subject, and have ascertained from him that the report is perfectly true, but although the 100 pics are to be then closed, no provision has been made at any other spot for the free commerce hitherto enjoyed and guaranteed to British merchants at the 100 pics; and that he has received instructions to enforce the payment of quay dues on all vessels indiscriminately, the new Tariff, which is to be issued simultaneously, being regarded by the Ottoman Government as a sufficient compensation to the merchants for the forcible resumption of the 100 pics. What the new Tariff is, however, is still a mystery. The Vali cannot furnish me with a copy. I expressed my supreme astonishment that a measure so subversive of existing arrangements is intended to come into sudden operation, without any previous notice being given to the merchants, and no copy of the new Tariff being even communicated to the Consuls, especially to me, who, representing the British merchants, represent some three-fourths of the foreign trade of Smyrna. I pointed out that so important a change as this, coming suddenly into operation, would be certain to give rise to serious difficulties, and perhaps conflicts, and I protested, in the interest of British commerce, against the course about to be pursued. I will only remind your Excellency that such a measure is contrary to the Capitulations, and utterly opposed also to the solemn engagement entered into by Fuad Pasha on the 1st April, 1868, that in spite of the Concession granted to the Quay Company, British interests would be thoroughly safeguarded; that no tax would be imposed on British commerce higher than the expense to the merchants of landing and shipping their goods by lighters; and that no vessels which do not wish to make use of the quay would be subjected to the payment of quay dues.

Leaving the question to the high consideration of your Excellency, and requesting instructions at your earliest convenience, I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 28.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 2. Commercial.)

Smyrna, February 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 10th December last, and especially to the last two paragraphs of that despatch, in which I reported the threatened invasion

by the Quay Company of the rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the British merchants of this port, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the worst fears of the merchants are about to be realized. I have ascertained from the lips of the Governor-General of this vilayet that, on the 13th March next, the new custom-house erected on the quay will be completed, and will then be handed over to the Ottoman authorities, when the landing-place, 100 pics wide, in front of the old custom-house, which has hitherto been reserved for free commerce, will be definitively and arbitrarily closed by order of the Porte, in the teeth of all their engagements to the contrary entered into with Her Majesty's Government; and that no other means of free access to the new custom-house will be provided, the result being that all vessels indiscriminately will be forced to make use of the quay to land and ship their goods, and compelled to pay the dues imposed by the Company, which payment he (the Governor-General) has received orders to enforce. I have also ascertained, from the same source, that a new Tariff is to be put into force on the same day. But whether this new Tariff will be a *bond fide* "reduction of nearly 30 per cent." on that now in force, as promised by the Quay Company in their memorial to Sir Henry Elliot of the 21st August, 1876, and which the British merchants have expressed their willingness to accept in lieu of the 100 pics, or will be on a more onerous scale, as at present, is the question to be determined. In any case, the merchants will find themselves suddenly at the mercy of the Quay Company, backed by the material force of the Local Government.

In any other land it would be a matter of supreme astonishment that a measure so subversive of existing arrangements should be attempted to be brought into sudden operation without previous notice being given to those who will be most seriously affected by it, and without a copy even of the intended Tariff being officially communicated to the Consular Body; but in Turkey there exist secret springs of action which move the political machinery, and enable those who work them to set at nought, for their own advantage, the interests of the rest of the community, and even to override engagements and guarantees given to foreign Governments.

February 28, 1880.

I have reason to believe that had it not been for my demand of an explanation from the Governor-General, the intended change would have been kept officially secret until the very day on which it was to be brought into operation. I pointed out to his Highness that so arbitrary a measure, brought so abruptly into execution, by which the legitimate claims of the merchants to the 100 pics will be entirely set aside, and their pretensions to adequate compensation completely ignored, ought to have been officially announced beforehand, in common fairness and courtesy to those gentlemen, as well as to avoid the serious difficulties and conflicts to which the opposite course was likely to give rise; and I protested in the interest of British commerce against the measure, and demanded a copy of the new Tariff that I might submit it to the merchants without further loss of time. The Governor-General added to my surprise by telling me he had not a copy to give me, and my application to the Quay Company for one was at first refused, but two days later they thought better of it, and furnished me with a copy, which I immediately handed to the leading British merchants for their consideration, and which I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship.

I had hoped that their decision would be favourable to this Tariff, and that they would find it sufficiently reduced to afford them adequate compensation for the relinquishment of the 100 pics, and that this long-vexed question would thus be set at rest; but I regret to say this is not the case. They raise serious objections to the Tariff itself, on the ground that, instead of the promised reduction of 30 per cent., there does not appear on the average to be any reduction at all, and they especially complain that all imported manufactures, and certain articles of native produce, are most heavily and unfairly weighted with quay dues. This is the view they take of the new Tariff from their cursory examination of it. When they have had time to form a mature decision on its details, I will have the honour to forward the result to your Lordship. As to the "Second Acte Additionnel," to which the new Tariff is appended, they contend that it is not an Imperial Firman, but only a Convention or Concession signed by a Grand Vizier alone, and therefore it cannot have the force of abrogating the engagement entered into with Her Majesty's Government by Fuad Pasha, a former Grand Vizier. Then, again, Article V of this Additional Act gives the Quay Company power to insist on the payment of quay dues by all vessels which enter the Bay of Smyrna, whether they avail themselves of the quay or not, even though they do not approach the town, such dues to be levied by the Customs authorities, in addition to the usual import and export duties, in the interest of the Quay Company. This is not very explicitly stated in the said Article—perhaps it was left intentionally obscure—but I have obtained a confirma-

tion of the construction put on it by the merchants from the Director of the Customs, who acknowledges that he has received instructions to act in the way above stated. I need not remind your Lordship that such a course will be a direct violation of the engagement made by Fuad Pasha with Her Majesty's Government, that no vessel which did not wish to make use of the quay would be subjected to the payment of quay dues.

Since writing the above, I have received a despatch from Sir Henry Layard, to whom I had applied for instructions, ordering me formally to protest against the proceedings contemplated by the authorities in forcibly closing the 100 pics, and to inform the Governor-General that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Porte responsible for all losses and damages which may accrue to British merchants in consequence thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 28.

SOCIÉTÉ DES QUAIS DE SMYRNE.

Convention et Cahier des Charges. Premier et Second Actes Additionnels.

This is the same as Inclosure 6 in No. 5, with the following addition:—

Second Acte Additionnel à la Convention du 4 Chaban, 1284 (27 *Novembre*, 1867), *relative à la Construction d'un Quai à Smyrne pour faire suite au Premier Acte Additionnel du* 12 *Redjeb*, 1285 (29 *Octobre*, 1868).

ARTICLE I.

EN exécution de l'Acte Additionnel faisant suite à la Convention passée entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société des Quais de Smyrne, daté du 12 Redjeb, 1285 (29 Octobre, 1868), le Gouvernement Impérial autorise la Société des Quais de construire à ses frais un quai, sur la partie de 100 pics environ laissés libre pour le public.

ARTICLE II.

En conformité des clauses et conditions de la présente Convention, et d'après le plan qui y est annexé et approuvé, la Société des Quais s'engage à exécuter, à ces frais, les travaux ci-dessous mentionnés, non prévus par la Convention, et dont la nécessité a été reconnue par le Gouvernement Impérial.

ARTICLE III.

L'ensemble des travaux que la Société des Quais aura à faire exécuter sont les suivants:—

1. La construction du quai mentionnée à l'Article 1er du présent Acte, en ligne directe de la première à la deuxième section des quais; et le remblai de tout l'espace de mer compris entre ces deux sections jusqu'au rivage actuel, laissant tout le long de ce quai une largeur de 25 archines pour la circulation publique et les besoins du commerce maritime.

Les terrains formés par le remblai de la mer devant la douane seront la propriété de la Société des Quais à teneur des Articles 4, 5, et 6 du Cahier des Charges du 4 Chaban, 1284. La construction de ce quai et le remblai de la mer devront être achevés dans le délai de deux années après la date du présent Acte, et en tenant compte des conditions mentionnées dans le troisième paragraphe du présent Article.

2. Le pavage et les bordures des trottoirs de la rue parallèle de la douane à la pointe, et des rues transversales de la rue parallèle au quai. Ce pavage devra être fait sur le même modèle, en dalles carrées, établi déjà sur les quais de 25 archines.

3. Pour établir le pavage décrit au paragraphe 2 ci-dessus du présent Article, la Société s'engage à payer les indemnités des constructions à être démolies sur le parcours de la rue parallèle, indemnités fixées par l'autorité locale à la somme de £T. 5,500, que la Société des Quais remettra à l'autorité locale au fur et à mesure que ces constructions seront démolies.

4. La prolongation de la rue parallèle jusqu'au palais du Gouvernement, soit directement en passant sur l'espace des 100 pics libres qui seront remblayés, soit en la dévoyant derrière la douane actuelle.

5. La construction et l'élargissement des égouts publics qui se raccordent à ceux déjà construits par la Société des Quais, en conformité des indications portées sur le plan déjà cité et annexé au présent Acte.

Si pendant la construction on en voyait la nécessité, la Société s'engage de prolonger encore de 500 pics les égouts déjà construits par elle.

6. L'exécution à ses frais et risques de tous les travaux nécessaires pour empêcher à l'avenir les inondations de la ville de Smyrne par les eaux de Mélès.

7. L'élargissement de la jetée sud du port d'abri qui aura 50 mètres de largeur sur toute sa longueur jusqu'à l'angle ouest du port. La Société des Quais aura la faculté d'établir, sur cette jetée, des magasins et des hangars pour l'usage du commerce.

8. La construction sur la jetée nord du port d'abri des offices de la Santé, des Postes et Télégraphes, des Phares, du Bureau des Passeports, et du Capitaine du Port et de la Poissonerie, conformément au plan déjà présenté et annexé au présent Acte.

Ces constructions devront être terminées au plus tard dans douze mois après la date du présent Acte.

9. La construction des magasins à charbon sur la jetée ouest, et afin d'abriter les navires qui feront des opérations derrière la nouvelle douane ainsi que devant la gare centrale des chemins de fer, la jetée de sud-ouest sera prolongée à partir de l'angle au moins de 100 mètres vers le sud.

10. La construction aux frais de la Société d'une nouvelle grande douane sur la jetée sud du port d'abri conformément au plan approuvé. Cette douane devra être construite sur une superficie de 9,000 mètres carrés. Les angles et les bordures des fenêtres et des portes seront en pierres, les traverses en fer, et les autres parties en briques.

11. Le jour où les deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba s'accorderaient, la Société des Quais s'engage d'établir et de construire sur le terrain de l'ancienne douane, à ses frais et risques, une grande gare pour leur usage. La Société des Quais, d'accord avec les Compagnies des Chemins de Fer, établira les conditions et les frais pour la circulation de leurs trains sur la voie ferrée de la Société des Quais. Pour prévenir tout danger et éviter les accidents, la Société, d'accord avec l'autorité locale, devra adopter les mesures nécessaires à cet effet. En outre, à la condition de poser des contre-rails, la Société pourra se servir de la traction par locomotives pour le transport des marchandises sur cette voie. Toutefois, la traction par la vapeur ne pourra se faire qu'à partir de minuit jusqu'à 8 heures du matin.

ARTICLE IV.

A l'exception des constructions de la nouvelle douane et des offices publics dont le délai d'achèvement est spécifié aux paragraphes 1, 8, 10 de l'Article 3 du présent Acte, il est accordé à la Société des Quais un délai de cinq ans à partir de la date du présent Acte pour l'achèvement des autres travaux.

L'approbation du Ministère des Travaux Publics sera nécessaire pour le projet des travaux destinés à empêcher à l'avenir les inondations par les eaux de Mélès, comme pour ceux de la construction de la gare des chemins de fer, et du raccordement de la voie ferrée d'Aïdin et de Cassaba, raccordement pour lequel la Société aura à s'entendre avec les Compagnies de ces chemins de fer en ce qui concerne l'emplacement et le mode de raccordement.

ARTICLE V.

En conformité de l'Article 6 du Premier Acte Additionnel du 12 Redjeb, 1285, et en conséquence de la construction de quai devant la douane, les Articles 1, 2, 3, et 4 du dit Acte Additionnel sont déclarés nuls et non avenus. La Société des Quais aura le privilège exclusif de percevoir les droits de quais sur la totalité des marchandises débarquées et embarquées, sous le contrôle direct de l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, en conformité des règlements douaniers, et par accord avec cette Administration. La perception de ces droits aura lieu d'après le Tarif spécifié à l'Article 6 ci-après, et commencera immédiatement après le transfert de la Douane à son nouvel emplacement.

Les colis, qui sont tarifés d'après leur volume et non d'après leur poids, doivent

être du volume ordinaire usité actuellement parmi les négociants. Dans le cas d'une contestation à ce sujet entre la Société et les négociants, le différend sera tranché arbitralement.

A dater du moment où cette perception générale des droits de quais aura lieu, le 12 pour cent des recettes brutes annuelles de ces droits appartiendra au Gouvernement Impérial à teneur de l'Article 15 du Cahier des Charges de la Convention relative aux Quais de Smyrne du 4 Chaban, 1284.

La Société fait abandon au Gouvernement Impérial de toute somme qu'elle aurait à réclamer de lui, à cause des 100 pics libres devant la douane depuis l'origine de la Concession, et en vertu de l'Article 3 du Premier Acte Additionnel.

ARTICLE VI.

Le Tarif des droits de quai, annexé à la Convention du 4 Chaban, 1284, ayant été modifiée, est annexé au présent Acte Additionnel. D'après le susdit Tarif, les marchandises qui seraient transbordées d'un navire sur un autre, tous les deux dans le port d'abri ou l'un seulement, sans passer par les quais, ainsi que les marchandises en transit qui seraient débarquées provisoirement à quai pour être de nouveau réembarquées, paieront la moitié du Tarif maximum.

ARTICLE VII.

En considération des frais et charges que la Société des Quais s'impose pour la construction et l'exécution des travaux énumérés à l'Article 3 du présent Acte Additionnel, le Gouvernement Impérial concède à la Société des Quais :—

1. La propriété de tous les terrains sur lesquels se trouve la douane, ses constructions, appartenances, et dépendances actuelles, à charge pour la Société des Quais de se conformer aux conditions contenues dans les Articles 4 et 5 de la Convention du 4 Chaban, 1284, et du Cahier des Charges qui y fait suite. Ces terrains et les bâtiments de la douane seront mis en possession de la Société des Quais aussitôt après que la construction de la nouvelle douane permettra le transfert de l'Administration Douanière dans le nouveau local.

La superficie de terrain affectée à la nouvelle douane sera de 9,000 mètres carrés, et la bâtisse sera conforme au plan approuvé. En outre, la Société des Quais ajoutera à cette superficie 600 mètres carrés sur lesquels, d'accord avec l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, elle construira les magasins nécessaires.

2. Une prolongation du privilège de la Concession des Quais de quinze années, au delà des trente années spécifiées dans l'Article Ier de la Convention relative à la construction des quais du 4 Chaban, 1284, est également concédée par le Gouvernement Impérial à la Société des Quais, c'est-à-dire que ce privilège cessera avec la fin de l'année 1942.

3. Les matériaux et le matériel nécessaires pour les constructions comprises dans le présent Acte Additionnel, qu'on ne fabrique pas et qu'on ne trouve pas sur les lieux, et qu'on est forcé d'importer de l'étranger, seront exempts de droits de Douane ; mais avant tout, une liste des susdits matériaux et matériel, approuvée par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, doit être présentée à l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne.

ARTICLE VIII.

En vue de régulariser les opérations commerciales maritimes, et de faciliter le contrôle des autorités Douanières, il sera fait d'après l'usage, d'accord avec le Capitaine du Port et l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, un règlement spécial pour le port d'abri que la Société a déjà établi et construit.

ARTICLE IX.

La nouvelle douane sur la jetée sud, et les Administrations publiques sur la jetée nord mentionnées aux paragraphes 8 et 10 de l'Article III du présent Acte, seront mis en possession du Gouvernement Impérial de suite après leur achèvement. La Société fera abandon, à titre gratuit, au Gouvernement Impérial, à la fin de l'année 1942, terme final, de la voie ferrée sur les quais, de la gare mentionnée au paragraphe 11 de l'Article III du présent Acte, du port, des magasins, et hangars de la jetée sud, et de ceux à charbon sur la jetée ouest, mentionnés aux paragraphes 7 et 9 du même

Article, dans les conditions spécifiées à l'Article 14 du Cahier des Charges de la Convention du 4 Chaban, 1284.

ARTICLE X.

Toutes les conditions, les stipulations, et les clauses de la Convention relative à la construction des Quais de Smyrne, du Cahier des Charges du 4 Chaban, 1284 (27 Novembre, 1867), et de l'Acte Additionnel du 12 Redjeb, 1285, qui ne sont pas abrogées ou modifiées par le présent Second Acte Additionnel conservent toute leur force et valeur.

Pour copie conforme à l'original,

(L.S.) Cachet du Divan Impérial.

Constantinople, 16 *Djemazi-ul-Ewel*, 1295 (*le* $\frac{9}{14}$ *Mai*, 1878).

Proposed New Tariff.

Tarif des Droits de Quai de la Ville de Smyrne. Annexe au Second Acte Additionnel.

Désignation des Marchandises.	Espèce de Colis.	Quintaux.	Piastres.
Acier	Quintal	1	2 00
Allumettes	Caisse	"	2 00
Alpiste	Kilé	"	0 6·40
Ancs	Tête	"	10 00
Beurre—			
Etranger	Quintal	1	3 00
Yerli	"	1	1 20·40
Bière—			
Le grand	Baril	"	3 00
Le petit	"	"	1 20·40
Bijouterie	Caisse	"	1 00
Biscuits	Quintal	1	0 20·40
" pour usage de navires	"		Gratis.
Blé	Kilé	"	0 10·40
Bœufs	Tête	"	5 00
Bois de teinture un-résineux	Quintal	1	0 10·40
Bois—			
La grande poutre	Pièce	"	1 00
La moyenne "	"	"	0 20·40
La petite "	"	"	0 10·40
Grandes poutrelles	Le cent	"	10 00
Moyennes "	"	"	7 00
Petites "	"	"	4 00
Grandes planches	"	"	10 00
Moyennes "	"	"	7 00
Petites "	"	"	4 00
A brûler	"	"	Gratis.
De chauffage, consommation locale	"	"	"
Briques—			
Etrangères	Le mille	"	5 00
Yerli	"	"	3 00
Café	Sac	"	1 00
Canevas	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Charbon—			
De bois, pour consommation locale	"	"	Gratis.
De terre, entrée	Tonne	"	3 20·40
" sortie	"	"	2 20·40
Chevaux	Tête	"	10 00
Chèvres	"	"	0 20·40
Châssis	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Chrôme	"	1	0 10·40
Cire	"	1	2 00
Citrons	Le mille	"	2 20·40
" yerli	"	"	Gratis.
Clous	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Cochenille	Caisse	"	1 00
Cuirs	Quintal	1	3 00
Coffre-forts	Pièce	"	10 00
Comestibles pour usage de navires	"	"	Gratis.
Cordages	Quintal	1	1 00
Corail	"	1	0 10·40
Coton	"	1	1 20·40

Désignation des Marchandises.	Espèce de Colis.	Quintaux.	Piastres.
Couleurs	Baril		3 00
Idem	Barilot		0 10·40
Cristaux—			
Le grande	Caisse		1 00
Le petite	"		2 00
Cuirs—			
Bruts	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Ouvrés	"	1	3 00
"	"	1	0 20·40
Cuivre	Le cent		10 00
Dalles assorties			Gratis.
Effets de voyageurs	Quintal	1	0 10·40
Émeril	Caisse		2 00
Éponges	"		1 00
Essence de roses	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Étain	Sac		1 00
Farine	Caisse		2 20·40
Fer blanc	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Ferraille	"	1	0 20·40
Fers			
Figues—		1	0 20·40
En sac		1	0 20·40
En boîtes			2 00
Fourrures, un touloum			0 20·40
Fromage	Quintal	1	
Fruits—			
Frais	Cuffe		0 20·40
Secs	Quintal	1	1 00
Galle, le sac de 50 oques	Sac		2 00
Garance	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Gomme—			
Adragante		1	2 00
Mastic	"	1	2 00
Graines—			
Jaunes	Sac		1 20·40
De chanvre	Kilé		0 6·40
Huile—			
Le petit touloum	Touloum		1 20·40
Le grand	"		1 00
Le petit baril	Baril		2 00
Le grand	"		4 20·40
Indigo	Caisse		4 00
Laines	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Légumes—			
Frais, consommation locale		1	0 20·40
" exportation		1	0 20·40
Secs		1	1 00
Machines	Pièce		10 00
Maïs	Kilé		0 6·40
Manufactures—			
Coton	Balle	3	4 00
Fil		2	3 00
Laine		2	3 00
Marbres (blocs de)—			
Grands	Pièce		10 00
Moyens	"		10 00
Petits	"		5 00
Marchandises, en pièces—			
La grande	Balle		4 00
La moyenne	"		3 00
La petite	"		2 00
Mercerie—			
La grande	Caisse		4 00
La moyenne	"		3 00
La petite	"		2 00
Meubles	"		6 00
Meules	Pièce		10 00
Moles (articles de)—			
La grande	Caisse		4 00
La moyenne	"		3 00
La petite	"		2 00
Moutons	Tête		0 20·40
Mulets	"		10 00
Nattes	Le cent		4 00
Olives	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Opium, la caisse de 80 chequis	Caisse		8 00
Oranges	Le mille		2 20·40
" yerli	"		Gratis.
Orge	Kilé		0 6·40

Désignation des Marchandises.	Espèce de Colis.	Quintaux.	Piastres.
Os	Quintal	1	0 10·40
Paillassons	Le cent.		4 00
Papiers—			
D'emballage	Balle		2 00
Peints	"		5 00
Fins	"		4 00
Parfumerie	Caisse		4 00
Pastèques, consommation locale			Gratis.
Peaux—			
Brutes	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Ouvrées	"	1	3 00
De chèvres	"	1	1 20·40
De moutons	"	1	1 20·40
Pétrole	Caisse		0 20·40
Pierres de Malte	Le cent		4 00
Plomb	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Pointes de Paris	"	1	1 00
Poissons salés—			
Le grand	Baril		2 00
Le petit	"		1 00
Poivre	Quintal	1	1 00
Poix	"	1	1 20·40
Porcelaine—			
La grande	Caisse		4 00
La petite	"		2 00
Porcs	Tête		1 00
Provisions pour usage de navires			Gratis.
Quincaillerie	Quintal	1	2 20·40
Raisins—			
En sacs	"	1	0 20·40
En boîtes	"	1	0 20·40
Réglisse	Caisse		2 00
" (racine de)	Quintal	1	0 10·40
Résine	"	1	2 00
Riz—			
Sac	Sac		1 00
Grand kanvi			1 00
Petit "	"		0 20·40
Sanguins	Caisse		1 00
Savons	Quintal	1	1 00
Semmonde	Caisse		1 00
Sésame	Kilé		0 10·40
Soie et bourre de soie	Quintal	1	3 00
Son	Sac		0 20·40
Soufre	Quintal	1	0 20·40
Spiritueux—			
Grand	Baril		1 20·40
Petit	"		2 10·40
Sucre	Quintal	1	1 20·40
Tabac	Ballot		2 00
Tapis	Quintal	1	3 00
Tuiles—			
Étrangères	Le mille		6 00
Yerli	"		3 00
Tumbeki	Ballot		2 00
Vaches	Tête		6 00
Valonée—			
Turque et Anglaise	Quintal	1	0 10·40
Sauvage	"	1	0 6·40
Verres à vitre	Caisse		0 20·40
" cannessés	"		0 10·40
Vin—			
Grand	Baril		3 00
Petit	"		1 20·40
Vinaigre	Quintal	1	1 00
Voiture	Pièce		10 00
Zinc	Quintal	1	0 20·40

Les paysans seuls de Karchiaka ne paieront aucun droit de quai pour tout objet qu'ils porteront à la main, tels que légumes, œufs, dindes, &c.

Tous les articles non spécifiés dans ce Tarif seront taxés sur les mêmes bases que ceux qui sont énoncés dans le présent Tarif, en tenant compte de leur volume, poids, et valeur.

Un Tarif spécial sera fixé pour le poisson frais destiné à être salé à l'usage du

commerce, d'accord avec l'Administration chargée de ce revenu, lorsque la poissonnerie pour la criée sera définitivement établie; le poisson frais, consommation locale, c'est-à-dire de ménage, ne paiera pas de droit de quai. La Société des Quais a la faculté de réduire le présent Tarif, mais elle n'a pas le droit de l'augmenter. Les marchandises transbordées d'un navire à l'autre, tous les deux se trouvant dans le port d'abri, ou l'un des deux seulement, celles encore qui seraient chargées sur un navire ancré dans le port, et qui viendraient de l'extérieur, enfin les marchandises en transit qui seraient débarquées à quai pour être de nouveau embarquées, sans qu'aucun changement ait été opéré dans leurs emballage, marques, et poids, ces marchandises dans les trois cas stipulés ci-dessus ne paieront que la moitié des droits de quai. Les munitions de guerre et effets de soldats sont exempts de droits de quai.

Pour copie conforme à l'original.

(L.S.) Sceau du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères.

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 27. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1880, 2·45 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your action in the Smyrna Quay question, as reported in your despatches of the 24th ultimo.

Inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will consider the Turkish Government responsible for charges levied on British subjects on goods, if any change is made in existing arrangements at Smyrna pending an understanding on the subject.

Consul Dennis has been informed as above.

No. 30.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Dennis.

(No. 1. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

SIR H. LAYARD has been requested to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will consider the Turkish Government responsible for charges levied on British subjects or goods, if any change is made in existing arrangements at Smyrna pending an understanding on the subject.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 11, 1880.

A TELEGRAM was, I am assured, sent by the Porte yesterday to Vali of Smyrna, directing him to suspend all proceedings connected with the free space until an understanding is come to.

(Sent to Smyrna.)

No. 32.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)
Smyrna, March 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the formal protest which I handed to the Governor-General of this vilayet on the 1st instant, in obedience to instructions I had received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to inform His Highness that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Porte responsible for all losses and damages

which may accrue to British merchants in consequence of the contemplated closing of the 100 pics of free shore in the port of Smyrna.

I have also the honour to report that I have since received a telegram from Sir Henry Layard, dated the 2nd instant, informing me that "the Porte will telegraph at once to the Vali to suspend all proceedings with regard to filling up the free space in front of the custom-house until further orders." His Excellency adds that he is treating the question with the Porte, and is doing his utmost to protect the interests of the British commercial community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Protest.

WHEREAS the Undersigned has received information from his Highness the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aïdin, that on the 13th day of this month of March the 100 pics of shore in front of the custom-house of Smyrna, hitherto reserved for free commerce, and guaranteed for the use of British merchants to exempt them from the payment of quay dues, will be forcibly closed by order of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, and no other means of free access to the custom-house substituted; and whereas the Undersigned has also been informed that the Chief of the Customs has received instructions to subject all merchant-vessels, without distinction, that enter the Bay of Smyrna on or after that date, whether they make use of the quay or not, to the payment of quay dues according to a new Tariff bearing date the 7th May, 1878, but not yet published, which is to come into force on the 13th day of this month of March; and whereas these alterations in the existing arrangements at this port, if put into execution, will constitute a direct violation and contravention of the Treaties between Great Britain and the Porte, which are still in force, and particularly of the engagements entered into by the Grand Vizier, Fuad Pasha, with Her Britannic Majesty's Government on the 1st April, 1868, in view of the construction of the quay of Smyrna, to wit: "That no tax shall be imposed on British commerce which shall exceed the expense of landing and shipping merchandize under the conditions at present in operation at Smyrna; and that vessels will be free to land and ship their goods, as at present, at the custom-house, without being obliged to approach the quay, and that quay dues shall not be imposed on those who do not wish to make use of the quay." Now I, the Undersigned, by command of Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, do hereby formally and solemnly protest against this breach of faith and these arbitrary and violent measures contemplated by the Ottoman Government; and I hereby make known to all whom it may concern that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will hold the Sublime Porte responsible for all losses and damages of whatever description that may be suffered by British merchants resident at Smyrna or elsewhere, in consequence of the contemplated measures aforesaid, should they be carried into execution.

Done at Smyrna, at the British Consulate, this 1st day of March, 1880.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1880, 10 A.M.

FOLLOWING from Consul Dennis, dated yesterday:—

"I have just seen the Vali, who received the Porte's telegram only this afternoon; he promises me that if the Quay Company will not give an equal free space in front of the new 'douane,' he will not hand over the old 'douane' nor close the 100 pics until the question is settled.

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 20. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 12 and 13, Commercial, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Dennis, inclosing copy of the formal protest he has addressed to the Governor-General against the contemplated closing of the 100 pics of free quay in the port of Smyrna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, March 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the formal protest which I handed to the Vali on the 1st instant, in obedience to your Excellency's instructions conveyed to me in your despatch of the 26th February, and in which I informed his Highness that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Porte responsible for all losses and damages which may accrue to British merchants in consequence of the contemplated closing of the 100 pics of free shore in this port of Smyrna.

I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd instant, informing me that "the Porte will telegraph at once to the Vali to suspend all proceedings with regard to filling up the free space in front of the custom-house until further orders; and that your Excellency is treating the question with the Porte, and is doing your utmost to protect the interests of the British commercial community." I have duly communicated the contents of this telegram to the British merchants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

P.S. *March 4, 12 noon.*— I have ascertained that up to this moment the Vali has received no telegram from the Porte instructing him to suspend the closing of the 100 pics.

G. D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Protest dated the 1st March, 1880.

[See Inclosure in No. 32.]

No. 35.

Mr. Lister to Consul Dennis.

(No. 2. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1880.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to convey to you his Lordship's approval of the protest addressed by you to the Governor-General of Smyrna, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 3, Commercial, of the 5th instant, with respect to the contemplated closing of the 100 pics of free shore in the port of Smyrna.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 30. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20, Commercial, of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of two further despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, respecting the closing of the 100 pics of free quay at that port. Your Lordship will have learnt by my telegram No. 112 that the Turkish Government have at last fulfilled the promises repeatedly given me in regard to this case, and that orders have been received by the Smyrna authorities to suspend all proceedings for the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, March 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that up to this day the Governor-General has received no instructions from the Porte to suspend the closing of the free space of 100 pics as was promised to your Excellency on the 2nd instant. That the Ottoman Government has no intention of performing this promise appears evident from the fact that the Director of the Customs here has informed the agent of a British Steam Company that a vessel which is expected to arrive to-day or to-morrow must discharge her cargo at the new custom-house, thus anticipating by two days the time fixed for closing the 100 pics. I have telegraphed this morning to your Excellency to this effect. I have also reported the receipt yesterday of a telegram from Lord Salisbury, confirming the one I received from you on the 2nd instant, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Porte responsible for charges levied on British subjects or goods, if any change is made in the existing arrangements at Smyrna pending an understanding on the subject.

I have also requested your Excellency in my telegram to furnish me with instructions for the guidance of the merchants. Two courses are suggested: either that the merchants should pay under protest the quay dues charged under the new Tariff, or that they should deposit at this Consulate day by day the receipts given by the Quay Company for the amounts paid in the shape of dues.

A more simple course, but one not likely to be sanctioned by the Porte, would be to allow British merchants free access to the new custom-house, as hitherto to the old, until the question in dispute is settled. But the question exists on one side only; neither the Ottoman authorities nor the Quay Company recognize the existence of any question, or of any right on the part of the merchants. With them might is now the only right.

I have the honour to inclose copy of the Governor-General's reply to the protest which I handed him on the first instant, with regard to which I have only to point out the inaccuracy of the statement made by his Highness that the existence of the "Second Acte Additionnel" to the Convention made by the Porte with the Quay Company "had been known to every one for a long time past." It had been indeed strongly suspected, as I pointed out in my despatch of the 27th November last, but had been strenuously denied by the Governor-General himself to the deputation from the Consular Corps which waited on him in May 1878 to ascertain the truth of the reports that were then current. No official notice has up to the present been given by the authorities of the altered arrangements which are to come into operation on the 13th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Ahmed Hamdi Pasha to Consul Dennis.

Smyrna, March 6, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your protest of the 1st March, 1880, relative to the contemplated closing of the 100 pics formerly left free in front of the custom-house at Smyrna, and you will permit me to make some observations thereon. Some days back you called upon me and requested to be informed as to the official information I had on this matter. I confirmed to you (what has been known to every one for a long time past) the existence of the Second Appendix to the Convention between the Quay Company and the Sublime Porte, and I stated to you verbally that according to that Appendix the new custom-house, which is in course of construction by the Company, will be ready by the 1st March, and that when the Custom-house Department has removed to it, the 100 pics left free in front of the old custom-house will naturally not be used, and that the new Tariff will also be enforced.

As regards the statement of the Director of the Customs, it is natural that he also could not have said anything foreign to the regulations of his Department. Consequently, as I am not authorized to enter into any discussion on the basis of your protest, I have to inform you that I will transmit your protest to the Sublime Porte, reserving to it the right of expressing its opinion, and making any observation it may deem proper in the matter.

(Signed) AHMED HAMDI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, March 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the receipt of your telegram yesterday afternoon, I called on the Governor-General to ascertain if the long-promised instructions from the Porte to suspend the closing of the free space had yet reached him, when I learned that he had at last received a telegram to that effect, and was expecting to receive more detailed instructions from the Council of State by the next mail. But I hear from the konak this morning that those instructions have not yet reached him. His Highness had immediately taken steps to communicate this telegram to the Quay Company, and expressed his hope that the Messrs. Dussaud would be willing to cede an equal space for free commerce until the question was definitively arranged. If they would not agree to this, he promised me not to hand over the old custom-house to the Company, and to keep the 100 pics open for free commerce pending the settlement of the question. I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to this effect yesterday evening. The question now resolves itself into a revision of the Tariff. The new Tariff, which was to have been put in force to-day, has been examined by the British merchants, and found to be on the average no reduction on the present Tariff, but on the contrary, to show an increase of at least 5 per cent. I am not yet in possession of the calculation by which they arrive at this result. When I receive further information on this subject, I will not fail to forward it to your Excellency.

Another question to be solved is how an agreement on the subject of the Tariff is to be arrived at between the Ottoman Government (on behalf of the Quay Company), and the merchants of Smyrna. If by a Commission, I would respectfully suggest that it should sit at Smyrna and not in Constantinople, where the views of the persons most interested cannot be easily consulted. The new Tariff, which is found to be so objectionable, is the production of a Commission sitting at Constantinople, and should the experiment be repeated it is foreseen that similar difficulties must inevitably arise. The British merchants here are unanimously of opinion that it is a *sine qua non* that such a Commission should sit on the spot. The next question is, How should it be constituted? Should it be composed of the Representatives of the different nations who are interested, or of the different branches of commerce proper to Smyrna? If the former, and if their resolutions are to be determined by vote, British interests are almost certain to be swamped by the preponderance of opposing interests; for the system which the Messrs. Dussaud have notoriously adopted hitherto to secure adherents and supporters might in such a case prove to be productive of great detriment to British commerce.

I would further remark that as the pressure successfully exerted on the Porte in checking the arbitrary measures intended to have been brought into operation this day has been confined to Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States, who alone have protested against those measures, it appears reasonable that in such a Commission the merchants of those two countries should take the principal part, and whatever advantages they may secure would be equally enjoyed by those of other nations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5, night.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 5, 1880.

PORTE proposes that in the question of the Smyrna Quay French Company should be allowed to continue their works on the 100 pics on the strict engagement of the Porte and the French Embassy that the dues payable to the Company under the present Tariff should be paid under protest, and that the amount above the Tariff to be hereafter agreed upon shall be repaid by the Company, and that no dues shall be paid for transhipment by vessels not making use of the quays until this question is settled. Porte further proposes that it should appoint a Delegate to meet one on the part of the Embassy at Smyrna to come to an agreement as regards the Tariff. It will name Parnis Effendi, and I would suggest St. John, who is thoroughly acquainted with the question.

This arrangement appears to me on the whole reasonable. Meeting with your approval, will you authorize me as soon as possible to assent to it, as the Company has protested against the suspension of their works, and the Porte is incurring a very heavy liability?

No. 38.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 43. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, April 5, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE your Excellency's proceedings in regard to the free quay at Smyrna, as reported in your despatch No. 30, Commercial, of the 16th ultimo; and I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Consul Dennis my approval of his action in the matter.

As regards the Commission on this question suggested in Mr. Dennis' despatch of the 13th ultimo, I would leave the decision as to the course to be taken to your Excellency's discretion. I would observe, however, that, as the question is a purely local matter, it would seem the best arrangement that any such Commission should sit at Smyrna; and I would further suggest that it may be expedient that you should concert with the United States' Minister at Constantinople the steps to be taken in the matter with the view to the due protection, in the action which may be taken, to the British and American interests concerned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 39.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 6. Commercial.)

Smyrna, March 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, one, dated the 25th instant, reporting the Resolutions of a meeting of British and other merchants interested in the trade with Great Britain, convened to consult on matters connected with the quay of Smyrna, and which resulted in the appointment of a Committee to examine and report

fully on the subject, for the information of Her Majesty's Government; the other, dated the 27th instant, replying to reports which had reached his Excellency the Ambassador as to the character of the opposition offered by the British merchants to the proceedings of the Quay Company, and justifying that opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, March 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that a meeting of British merchants and other gentlemen interested in British trade and shipping was this morning held at my Consulate, to consult on matters connected with the quay of Smyrna, and especially to consider what steps should now be taken in reference to the Tariff recently published, and the novel and extensive privileges granted by the Ottoman Government to the Quay Company, which, had it not been for the prompt interposition of Her Majesty's Government, would have been brought into force on the 13th of this month.

The meeting was numerously attended, not only by the resident British merchants, but also by others of various nations who are engaged in commerce with Great Britain. The discussion which took place resulted in the appointment of a Committee to examine the various points connected with the Quay question, and to report their views for the information of Her Majesty's Government. The meeting embodied in their Resolutions a vote of thanks to your Excellency, and also to the Secretary of State, for the measures taken for securing their right to free access for their goods to the custom-house, which right they hoped would be maintained until a satisfactory settlement of the question was arrived at. Copy of their Resolutions I have the honour to inclose.

Though no further Resolutions were passed, I may state that the general feeling expressed at the meeting was strongly in favour of the retention of the 100 pics in front of the old custom-house, as heretofore, if possible, or else in some other spot, as, for instance, in front of the new custom-house—in any place, in short, which would admit of ready access to the Customs without the payment of quay dues. If this claim to a free space of 100 pics, either in the old or in the new locality, were conceded, it would be the simplest mode of solving the existing difficulty, for there would then be no longer any question respecting the Tariff, and no necessity for the appointment of a Commission to determine the manner in which it should be revised or the extent to which it should be reduced, so as to be accepted by the merchants as an adequate compensation for the surrender of their rights to the 100 pics.

Strong condemnation was also expressed of the powers conceded to the Quay Company, under Article 5 of the new "Cahier des Charges," to levy quay dues on all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna, whether they wished to make use of the quay or not; and this concession was denounced, not only as a direct contravention of the engagements entered into by the Sublime Porte with Her Majesty's Government, but also as a measure which, if carried into execution, would be fatal to the interests of British commerce. I must add that the imputation often brought against the British mercantile community in Smyrna, that the opposition shown towards the Quay Company had its origin in a narrow anti-French feeling, was strenuously repudiated. The non-existence of such a feeling, at present at least, is proved by the nomination of a French gentleman as a member of the Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Resolutions.

Proposed by Mr. J. B. Patterson and seconded by Mr. James Whittall:—

Resolved,—"That this meeting considers it desirable that a local Committee be appointed, composed of British subjects, as well as of other merchants who may be interested in the trade of this port with Great Britain, to examine the Tariff recently published by the Quay Company; also to take into consideration the various privileges which appear to have been accorded to the said Company by the Imperial Government, and to report on these matters to Her Majesty's Consul:

"That Her Majesty's Consul be requested to convey to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and, through him, also to the Secretary of State, the thanks of this meeting for having maintained the rights of the commerce of this city to the 100 pics in front of the custom-house free of quay dues; and to express their hope that no abandonment of those rights will be made until the various questions now in dispute between the merchants and the Quay Company are satisfactorily settled."

Resolution carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. James Whittall and seconded by Mr. J. B. Rees:—

Resolved,—"That the proposed Committee be composed of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Richard Whittall, Mr. Augustus O. Clarke, Mr. Robert Wilkin, Mr. W. H. Cadoux, Mr. Belhomme, Mr. Spartali, and Mr. Essayan."

Resolution carried unanimously.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS, *Chairman*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, March 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt late last night of the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"I am informed that the opposition to the completion of the quays is now only made by a few English merchants, and that all the rest of the commercial community of Smyrna is ready to accept Dussaud's Tariff. I cannot, of course, sanction an unreasonable or factious opposition, which may lead to very serious loss to the Porte in consequence of the suspension of the works, against which Dussaud has formally protested, holding the Porte responsible.

"Is there no way of settling this question without further delay? Telegraph to me at once.

"LAYARD."

I had the honour to reply to this telegram this morning, as follows:—

"An attempt has been made to deceive your Excellency by misrepresenting the character of the opposition. It is a calumny to describe it as factious, unreasonable, and confined to a few. It embraces the entire British mercantile community, and a very large majority of foreign merchants, and represents the greater part of the commerce of Smyrna.

"The only way to settle this question without further delay is to give the merchants another 100 pics, free of dues, adjoining the new 'dounne,' when the opposition will instantly cease.

"A Committee of merchants is now sitting to consider the entire subject. I will telegraph their report.

"DENNIS."

When it became known here that the Messrs. Dussaud had left Smyrna for Constantinople to protest against the Porte for suspending the construction of the quay in front of the 100 pics, it was fully understood that they would spare no pains, and would not hesitate to adopt any available measures to carry their point, and to overcome, if possible, the opposition of the merchants. The attempt, therefore, to mislead your Excellency on the subject of the 100 pics, by misrepresenting the character of the opposition with which they have to deal, surprises no one here. That the misstatement emanates from that quarter I am entitled to conclude, as the elder M. Dussaud, in the only interview I have had with him, made use of the same terms in designating the opposition of the British merchants.

I cannot understand on what grounds the opposition of the merchants can be denounced as factious and unreasonable, when they simply endeavour, as the Messrs. Dussaud are now doing, to maintain their rights and to protect their own interests. On the other hand, it is not a little unreasonable for the Messrs. Dussaud to expect that the merchants will tamely renounce their rights at their demand, and submit to the payment of some additional 18,000*l*. or 20,000*l*. a-year in quay dues (which amount the Messrs. Dussaud expect to obtain from the closing of the 100 pics), in order to swell the revenues of the Quay Company.

That the Porte finds itself in an awkward position at present with reference to the question of the Smyrna Quay is the natural consequence of having made conflicting and incompatible engagements—one with Her Majesty's Government, the other with the Messrs. Dussaud. It cannot possibly keep faith with both parties, and in any case must be prepared to suffer loss. If it break faith with M. Dussaud, he will of course demand an indemnity for the loss he will sustain in the shape of the increased quay dues to which he is entitled under the "Second Acte Additionnel," and on which he has reckoned as the result of closing the 100 pics, and of extending the operation of his new Tariff to all parts of the Bay of Smyrna. If it prefer to break faith with the British Government, it will become responsible to the merchants for whatever sums may be exacted from them in the shape of quay dues, the amount of which Her Majesty's Government has always the power of repaying them out of the revenues of Cyprus, so long as it retains possession of that island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 40.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11, 2:30 P.M.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 11, 1880, 12·55 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 153 of the 5th instant, will you kindly let me have an answer as soon as possible to Porte's proposal respecting Smyrna Quay?

No. 41.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 62. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 15, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

ANSWER to your No. 153.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it is not expedient to agree to the Porte's proposal relative to the conditional payment of dues at Smyrna and closing of the free space pending the settlement of the Quay question.

You may expedite as much as possible the proceedings of the Commission.

Mr. St. John's appointment to act in the matter at Smyrna on the part of Her Majesty's Government is approved.

No. 42.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 17.)

(No. 7. Commercial.)
Smyrna, April 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 31st March, I have the honour to inclose copy of certain Resolutions passed by the Italian merchants resident at Smyrna, at a meeting held to consider the relations of their commerce to the Quay Company, together with copy of a despatch addressed by me to his Excellency the Ambassador on the 31st ultimo, containing comments on the said Resolutions, in which I notice the agreement of the Italian with the British colony of merchants as to the maintenance of their claims to the 100 pics of free access to the custom-house, until a satisfactory revision of the proposed Tariff is effected, and point out several particulars in which the views of the two mercantile communities appear to differ, especially with regard to the composition of the Commission, by means of which, it is generally believed, the revision of the Tariff will be accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, March 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency copy of the Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Italian merchants of Smyrna, which was held here on the 25th instant, to consider the relations of their commerce to the Quay Company. This is the second meeting of the Italian mercantile community convened for this purpose, and it was convened, I am informed, in consequence of some of the merchants having protested against the Resolutions adopted at the former meeting.

It will be seen from the Resolutions passed on this occasion that the Italian merchants declare, as the British merchants have done long since, their determination to maintain their right to the 100 pics until they have secured a satisfactory modification of the new Tariff, although they do not specify the precise extent of the reduction which will satisfy them. They, moreover, refuse to relinquish their right to the 100 pics until all the other foreign mercantile communities at Smyrna have agreed to do the same.

Your Excellency will perceive from this fact alone the inaccuracy of the information which has reached your ears, that all the mercantile community of Smyrna, with the exception of a few English merchants, was ready to accept M. Dussaud's Tariff.

The views propounded in these Resolutions as regards the constitution of the Commission, by means of which an arrangement between the Quay Company and the commerce of Smyrna is proposed to be effected, will not meet with acceptance by the British merchants; for, if carried into effect, they would imperil the interests of British commerce. They appear, indeed, to be based on contradictory principles, for, while it is proposed to exclude the representatives of the smaller national colonies, because they have but a limited interest in the commerce of Smyrna, it is proposed, on the other hand, to place on an equal footing all those which are to be admitted to the Commission —thus, as regards exclusion, acting on the principle of comparative interest, but adopting the opposite principle with regard to participation in the Commission. On this system, if the questions to be discussed are to be decided by vote, as is intended, the British interest, which outweighs in importance all the other interests together, will be very inadequately represented; and even runs the risk of having no voice whatever in the decisions of the Commission, for the views of the British merchants are almost certain to be opposed by the French members, who will probably be selected expressly, and, if their numbers are equal, the votes of the two colonies will nullify each other, so that the important British interests at stake will thus be decided by the remaining nationalities, which have a very inferior share in the commerce of Smyrna.

I do not perceive how the presence of the Consuls, who, those of the leading Powers at least, are not practically acquainted with commerce, can prove of service in the Commission. The merchants are perfectly well acquainted with their own rights and interests, and are able to determine, without any assistance from their Consuls, what reduction of the Tariff will be an adequate compensation for the sacrifice of the 100 pics. The merchants also would state their opinions with more freedom and independence if unfettered by Consular interference. If the Consuls be present at the Commission they certainly should not be entitled to a vote in its decisions.

With reference to Article 2, which is not very explicit, I would remark that it should not be left to the Quay Company to impose dues on the unenumerated articles, by value, weight, or bulk, at their option. This would open the door for much irregular and unfair taxation. The most equitable mode of taxing those articles which it is not found possible to enumerate in the Tariff appears to be by the ton, for, after all, weight is the best test of the wear and tear of the quay on the one hand, and of the convenience and facility afforded to the merchants on the other.

Article 3 will be generally approved. It is not desirable that the Quay Company should have the power of favouring its supporters and punishing its opponents by the imposition of differential dues.

Article 4 will hardly be palatable to the British merchants. The Ottoman Government has engaged that the sums payable as quay dues shall not exceed the expense of landing and shipping goods in lighters at the custom-house. The merchants, therefore, understand that if they renounce the 100 pics and consent to pay quay dues, which they are well aware will, in any case, prove a much heavier tax on their commerce than the expense of lighters, they are entitled to place their vessels alongside the quay, and, if

this be not practicable, either from want of room or from any other cause, the expense and risk of landing and shipping ought, in every such case, to be borne by the Quay Company, who must engage to accept this outlay and risk as the price to be paid for the acceptance by the merchants of their Tariff. Otherwise, the merchants will not only continue to be saddled with the expense of landing and shipping their goods, as heretofore, but also with the payment of quay dues into the bargain. It should not be left to the option of the Quay Company to accept or renounce this charge, which, from the circumstances of the case, naturally and fairly devolves on them, and should be rendered obligatory.

On Article 5 I would remark that it is doubtless a *sine qua non* that the Tariff fixed by the Commission in accord with the Quay Company should be final, and not subject to be altered by an arbitrary Decree of the Porte; except it be agreed that, after a specified term of years, it be submitted for revision to a Commission similarly constituted to that now to be appointed. If the modifications in the new Tariff are left to the appreciation of a Commission composed of merchants alone, there will be no danger of their arriving at any decision prejudicial to the trade of Smyrna, present or future; but, if the Consuls are to take part in their deliberations, and to possess the power of voting, other interests than those of commerce are not unlikely to be taken into consideration.

In Article 6 the Italian merchants declare, what the merchants of other nations resident at Smyrna can declare with equal sincerity, that they are not animated by any spirit of opposition to the quay, which they recognize as a great and useful public work, but they, nevertheless, do not fail to urge their just claims on the consideration of the Porte, not only in their own interest, but also in that of the Ottoman Empire itself.

April 1, 1880.—I have the honour to state that I have just seen the Resolutions passed at a meeting of the American merchants and others largely interested in the trade with the United States, held this morning at the American Consulate in this city, in which the said gentlemen maintain their right, unconditionally, to the 100 pics of free access to the custom-house guaranteed to them by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Resolutions passed at a Meeting of Italian Merchants resident at Smyrna, as to the Relation of their Commerce to the Quay Company.

LES Commerçants Italiens réunis en séance extraordinaire au Casino Européen, aujourd'hui, 25 du mois de Mars, à 10 heures du matin, pour délibérer, sous la Présidence du Consul-Général et l'assistance de l'élève Consul, M. de Revel, sur les mesures à adopter en vue de l'abolition des 100 pics libres, et de l'application du nouveau Tarif du quai, sont tombés d'accord sur les décisions suivantes:—

Les 100 pics libres constituant un privilège qui a été publiquement et officiellement accordé au commerce de Smyrne, les commerçants Italiens ne sauraient y renoncer purement et simplement, et expriment le désir que l'abandon de ce droit soit le résultat d'un accord entre le Gouvernement Turc et les concessionnaires du quai d'une part, et le commerce Européen de l'autre.

Toute renonciation demeurera sans valeur tant que les autres colonies n'y auront pas renoncées à leur tour, car elles jouiraient alors d'un privilège auquel les Italiens auraient renoncé; les principes qui animent ces derniers étant le droit d'un côté, l'égalité de traitement de l'autre, ils se déclarent prêts à renoncer aux 100 pics libres sous la condition que l'accord, dont il est parlé plus haut, se soit produit, et que toutes les colonies y accèdent dans la même mesure, et avec le même esprit de conciliation, qui guide la colonie Italienne.

D'après les sentiments des Italiens l'accord devrait avoir les bases suivantes:—

1. Le nouveau Tarif n'entrera en vigueur qu'après un examen préalable, fait par une Commission *ad hoc* composée des Consuls des Puissances les plus intéressées, et de leurs nationaux respectifs, au nombre de deux pour chaque colonie, pris dans la catégorie des commerçants.

2. Cet examen portera sur les droits du Tarif, et la Commission proposera les modifications définitives à y introduire, ayant pour base unique la marchandise, d'après sa valeur, poids, ou capacité, s'il y aura lieu, on proposera la modification

des mesures unitaires sur lesquelles le Tarif se base, et on adoptera un système de poids ou de capacité qui réponde plus clairement aux besoins du commerce, et à une juste classification des articles.

3. Le Gouvernement prendra, en son nom et en celui des concessionnaires, l'engagement formel que toute faveur, de quelque nature qu'elle soit, sera rigoureusement défendue, soit à l'avantage d'une maison de commerce, ou d'une Compagnie de navigation, ou d'une entreprise quelconque, soit à l'avantage d'une colonie et en détriment des autres.

4. Les concessionnaires prendront l'engagement de se charger, à leurs frais et risques, du débarquement et embarquement des marchandises, et la Commission de son côté tiendra compte de cette charge dans la modification des droits, de façon à ne pas compromettre les bénéfices que l'entreprise a le droit d'exiger. La réduction du Tarif sera plus considérable, dans les proportions voulues, dans le cas où les concessionnaires renonceraient à la charge des frais et risques du débarquement et de l'embarquement des marchandises.

5. Toute autre modification des stipulations intervenues entre les concessionnaires et le Gouvernement, et touchant directement ou indirectement le commerce de Smyrne, et ses opérations commerciales, est abandonnée à l'appréciation et au jugement de la Commission à nommer, qui aura soin de créer un état de choses durable, et qui tout en favorisant le développement d'une entreprise à tout point avantageuse, ne portera aucun préjudice au présent et à l'avenir du commerce de la ville.

6. Les commerçants Italiens désirent sincèrement que l'accord sur les bases qui précèdent se fasse, et saisissent cette circonstance pour manifester leur reconnaissance aux concessionnaires du quai, pour les bienfaits dont ils ont doué la ville de Smyrne; ils déclarent hautement qu'ils ne sont animés d'aucun esprit d'opposition à cette grande et utile entreprise, et que leur unique désir est que le Gouvernement Ottoman, se plaçant au point de vue de ses véritables intérêts, et d'une large protection à accorder au commerce, dont dépend en grande partie la vitalité de l'Empire, tienne compte de leurs équitables réclamations, et trouve le moyen de mettre d'accord les grands intérêts de l'entreprise des quais, avec les non moins grands intérêts des colonies étrangères qui demeurent à Smyrne, et qui sont le noyau des relations commerciales entre l'Anatolie et l'Europe.

No. 43.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 8. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, April* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 31st March, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship copy of a remonstrance addressed to me by the British merchants and others at this port engaged in commerce with Great Britain, having reference to a telegram I had received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 26th March, in which his Excellency stated that he had been informed that the opposition to the Quay Company was confined to a few English merchants, the entire mercantile community of Smyrna, with those exceptions, being willing to accept Messrs. Dussaud's Tariff, adding that he could not sanction any opposition of a factious and unreasonable character.

I considered it to be only fair to the British mercantile community here to acquaint them with the erroneous impression which designing persons, for their own objects, had endeavoured to create on his Excellency's mind, and they have consequently availed themselves of this information to vindicate themselves from these false imputations, and, with the view of proving how general is the feeling of opposition, have taken the opportunity of associating with themselves in their remonstrance many merchants of foreign origin, but all interested in British trade.

This paper would have been still more numerously signed had it not been addressed to me, many European merchants, while expressing their full concurrence in the substance of the remonstrance, refusing to sign a document addressed to a foreign Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Messrs. Whittall and Co. and others to Consul Dennis.

Smyrna, March 29, 1880.

Sir,

THE Undersigned have the honour to acknowledge communication of the telegram addressed to you by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under date of the 26th instant, in which his Excellency states that he is informed that the opposition to the completion of the quay is only made by a few English merchants, and that all the rest of the commercial community of Smyrna is ready to accept Messrs. Dussaud's Tariff, and his Excellency adds that he cannot of course sanction any unreasonable or factious opposition, which may lead to very serious loss to the Porte, in consequence of the suspension of the works, against which Messrs. Dussaud have formally protested, holding the Porte responsible.

The Undersigned cannot too strongly express their feelings of surprise on the perusal of this telegram. The tone of the meeting held at your Consulate on Thursday last, which was attended not only by English, but also by many foreign merchants trading with England, is a convincing proof that the information given to Her Majesty's Ambassador is totally at variance with truth. The Undersigned do not hesitate to say that the most important portion of the mercantile community of Smyrna are altogether opposed to the last Concession granted by the Porte to the Smyrna Quay Company, and we even venture to assert that, were it not for fear of causing displeasure to Ottoman and other authorities here well known to favour the measure, the entire commercial body would be opposed to this "Second Acte Additionnel," as, independent of the exorbitant Tariff therein sanctioned, there are likewise other privileges granted to the Company which are monstrous, and should never be accepted on any conditions, such as the right to levy quay dues on goods landed or embarked at any place within the jurisdiction of the Smyrna Custom-house, in other words, in the whole Bay of Smyrna, whether such goods pass over the quay or not.

On the first Tariff published by the Quay Company Messrs. Dussaud offered, in a letter addressed by them to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under date of the 21st April, 1876, to make a reduction of about 30 per cent., and when a Committee was named here to examine into the proposed revised Tariff, it was found that, instead of a reduction of the promised 30 per cent., it was little more than 1 per cent. lower than the former one.

The Committee then stated certain conditions on which they could recommend a retrocession of the 100 pics free of quay dues in front of the custom-house, which had been conceded by the Porte to the mercantile community of Smyrna on the representations of Her Majesty's Ambassador, who demanded as a right, in accordance with existing Treaties, that there should be a free passage to and from the custom-house, and Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, under date of the 18th April, 1877, thus states the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government would be willing to consent to the retrocession of the 100 pics in question:—

1. That the existing Tariff of quay dues be reduced in such a manner as shall satisfy all parties concerned.

2. That the Tariff, so reduced, be maintained during the whole period of the Concession.

3. That the Porte engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the Concession, without restoring the present access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

4. That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed dock the smell which, it is represented, frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

5. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.

None of these conditions, with the exception of a partial removal of the smell in the docks by the free passage of the water, have been carried out; on the contrary, the Quay Company exerted its influence at Constantinople, and obtained a further Concession, dated the 7th May, 1878, but which was only made public about the beginning of the present or the end of last month. This further Concession, called "Second Acte Additionnel," besides granting other privileges, to which we have already alluded, sanctions a new Tariff, which is actually considerably higher than the one on which Messrs. Dussaud offered to make a reduction of about 30 per cent. in their above-mentioned letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador in April 1877.

As soon as the British mercantile community here had knowledge of this last Concession, they applied to you, Sir, requesting that you would represent to Her Majesty's Ambassador the great importance of insisting that 100 pics in front of the custom-house should be maintained free of quay dues.

This, Sir, is a simple narrative of the facts of the case, and the Undersigned cannot too strongly censure the attempts of those who twist and turn, distort and misrepresent, these facts to Her Majesty's Ambassador for the purpose of inducing his Excellency to believe that the opposition of the mercantile community of Smyrna is unreasonable and factious.

The Quay Company, whilst negotiating for their last Concession, were perfectly well aware that the terms and conditions they sought to obtain were directly opposed to the interests of the mercantile community of Smyrna, and the Turkish Government were likewise aware that in granting such Concession they were acting in direct contravention to their engagements with Her Majesty's Government.

Under such circumstances, therefore, the Undersigned feel convinced that Her Majesty's Ambassador will allow that neither the grantees nor the grantors merit any consideration on the part of his Excellency.

As we contend that the free 100 pics is an inseparable privilege connected with the custom-house, and that this right in favour of the public follows, and is attached to, that establishment, wherever it may be settled within the limits of the port, there need be no suspension, therefore, of the works now in progress by the Company, as all difficulties, it appears to us, would be removed by the Imperial Government consenting that the free quay privilege should be transferred from the old to the newly-constructed custom-house.

The Undersigned are ready to admit that the quay is a great embellishment to the sea frontage of the town, but it was undertaken, to the great detriment of many private interests, as a huge land speculation, and the very high prices obtained for the land by the Quay Company, and the quay dues they already receive, ought to constitute ample remuneration for their outlay, without depriving the mercantile community of their Treaty rights of free access to and from the custom-house.

If the Quay Company afford sufficient facilities for loading and discharging in their docks at reasonable rates, merchants of their own accord would doubtless avail themselves of such facilities, and the Quay Company would thus increase its revenues by legitimate means, instead of by the arbitrary measure which they now wish to enforce, of closing all free access to the custom-house, and thus place the whole trade of Smyrna in their power on their own terms.

According to the most reliable statistics obtainable, the annual imports and exports of the port of Smyrna amount in value to about 9,000,000*l.*, and fully one-half of this trade is, directly or indirectly, with the United Kingdom, so that British interests involved in the matter in question are equal to those of all other countries put together.

The Committee appointed at the meeting last Thursday at your Consulate are preparing a detailed Report on the proposed new Tariff of the Quay Company, as likewise on other points of their last Concession.

The Undersigned have, &c.

(Signed) C. WHITTALL AND Co., *for selves, and as Agents for James Moss and Co.'s and Fredk. Leyland and Co.'s Lines of Steamers.*

(And other Firms.)

No. 44.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 67. Commercial. Extender.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have had under consideration the proposal of the Porte, communicated in your Excellency's telegram of the 5th instant, relative to conditional payment of the quay dues at Smyrna and the closing of the free space.

As I understand the case, and the proposal now made, it does not seem to be expedient to compel British subjects to pay these dues before the whole question of the Smyrna Quays is settled. Her Majesty's Government have much reason to complain of

the action of the Porte in various commercial questions; and there does not seem to be any reason why, in this instance, the original intention that payment should not be made until the whole question has been settled should be departed from.

Payment in the manner proposed by the Porte appears, moreover, likely to lead to complications and future disputes.

I have addressed a telegram to your Excellency to this effect; and I have further informed you that I concur in your suggestion that Mr. St. John should proceed to Smyrna to act in the matter on the part of Her Majesty's Government; and that you may expedite as much as possible the proceedings of the Commission in which Mr. St. John will act on their behalf.

Pending this inquiry it does not appear expedient to sanction the levying of these dues on British subjects or commerce.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 45.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 41. Commercial. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy, which has been given to me confidentially, of the opinion of Parnis Effendi and M. Tarin, the foreign legal advisers of the Porte, with respect to the demand of Her Majesty's Government that the 100 pics reserved for the use of the foreign commerce at Smyrna should not be encroached upon by the concessionnaires of the Smyrna quays until an arrangement shall be entered into with them as to the Tariff of quay dues. This opinion enters very fully into the whole question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Opinion of Parnis Effendi and M. Tarin.

LE Gouverneur-Général d'Aïdin se conformant à un ordre de la Sublime Porte, a suspendu les travaux que la Société des Quais de Smyrne avait entrepris sur l'espace libre de 100 archines situé devant la douane, et sur lequel le commerce avait le droit d'embarquer et de débarquer des marchandises en franchise des droits de quai.

Cette mesure avait pour but de maintenir au profit du commerce la franchise des 100 archines qui allait se trouver supprimée par l'effet des travaux accomplis en exécution du Second Acte Additionnel intervenu entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société le 29 Octobre, 1878. Elle avait été provoquée par une démarche pressante de l'Ambassade Britannique, à la date du 27 Février, démarche provoquée elle-même par les plaintes d'un certain nombre de commerçants Anglais de Smyrne. Ces commerçants avaient exposé que les avantages promis au commerce par les concessionnaires des quais de Smyrne en retour de la suppression de la franchise des 100 archines—avantages consistant notamment dans l'abaissement du Tarif des droits de quai, ne résultait point du nouveau Tarif établi par l'Acte Additionnel sus-visé.

La Société des Quais de Smyrne a protesté immédiatement, entre les mains du Gouverneur-Général, contre la suspension forcée de ses travaux, en tenant le Gouvernement Impérial responsable du dommage qui en résulterait pour la Société. En même temps, et par l'entremise du Consulat-Général de France à Smyrne, elle en a saisi l'Ambassade de France qui, par sa note en date du 18 Mars, appuie ces protestations et demande que la mesure de la suspension des travaux soit immédiatement rapportée, et que la Société soit mise en possession de tous les droits qui lui sont assurés par sa Concession et par l'Acte Additionnel du 29 Octobre, 1878.

Les Soussignés, appelés à donner leurs avis sur les questions complexes que soulève cet incident, constatent tout d'abord que la Sublime Porte se trouve en présence de deux ordres de faits entièrement distincts qui exigent un examen séparé: le premier comprend les rapports entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Société des Quais de

Smyrne, et le second les rapports entre le Gouvernement Impérial et l'Ambassade Britannique, ainsi que les autres Missions qui se sont associées à son opposition.

En conséquence, les Soussignés vont examiner séparément ces deux ordres de faits, qui font naître les deux questions suivantes:—

1. La Société des Quais de Smyrne a-t-elle rempli toutes les obligations qu'elle a contractées envers le Gouvernement Impérial en retour et en considération desquelles la franchise des 100 archines devant la douane de Smyrne devait être supprimée?

2. Le Gouvernement Impérial a-t-il observé les conditions auxquelles l'Ambassade Britannique avait attaché son consentement à la suppression des 100 archines?

Première Question.

Originairement, c'est-à-dire sous l'empire de l'Acte de Concession et du Premier Acte Additionnel, un espace de 100 archines, situé devant la douane, avait été réservé pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises en franchise des droits de quai, et les concessionnaires recevaient du Gouvernement Impérial une compensation pour les recettes dont ils étaient ainsi privés.

Lorsque la Société des Quais de Smyrne demanda au Gouvernement Impérial certaines modifications aux Actes de sa Concession, et notamment la suppression de cette franchise des 100 archines, elle offrit de réaliser un ensemble de travaux importants intéressant tout le commerce que la ville de Smyrne. Elle proposa en même temps la révision du Tarif des droits de quai dans un sens favorable au commerce. On lit à ce propos, dans un Mémoire adressé par le représentant de la Société à Constantinople à l'Ambassade Britannique, que le nouveau Tarif serait abaissé d'environ 30 pour cent, c'est-à-dire qu'en moyenne la tonne de marchandise payant d'après le Tarif en vigueur 3 fr. 75 c., ne paierait plus suivant le nouveau Tarif que 2 fr. 75 c. Cette déclaration ne saurait toutefois constituer de la part de la Société un engagement que le Gouvernement Impérial puisse invoquer utilement aujourd'hui. En effet, il est avéré que l'affirmation du représentant de la Compagnie reposait sur une erreur, puisque d'après l'ancien Tarif le droit de quai ne s'élevait pas à 3 fr. 75 c. par tonne; de sorte que la taxe de 2 fr. 75 c. par tonne—chiffre réel et maximum du nouveau Tarif—ne pouvait en aucun cas constituer une réduction de 30 pour cent. Mais en admettant que l'on put prendre à la lettre l'affirmation de l'agent de la Société, cette affirmation n'aurait eu d'autre effet que d'autoriser le Ministère des Travaux Publics et le Conseil d'Etat à exiger du concessionnaire la réduction annoncée, et à ne donner leur approbation qu'à un Tarif qui aurait présenté 30 pour cent de rabais sur l'ancien Tarif. En un mot, et c'est sur ce point que les Soussignés insistent, au point de vue du droit, tout ce que les représentants de la Société des Quais de Smyrne ont pu promettre, dire ou alléguer avant que le Conseil d'Etat ait arrêté définitivement les termes de la nouvelle Convention, et du nouveau Tarif, est nul et non avenu, et ne peut être invoqué contre la Société en dehors des clauses formelles de la Convention écrite et sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial, qui seule fait loi entre les parties.

Or, cette Convention qui constitue le Second Acte Additionnel à la Concession, ne renferme aucune clause qui directement ou indirectement impose aux concessionnaires l'obligation d'appliquer un Tarif inférieur dans une mesure quelconque à l'ancien Tarif. La vérité est que le Tarif qui est annexé à la Convention, dont il fait partie intégrante, a été l'objet d'une discussion approfondie au Conseil d'Etat qui, pour mieux s'éclairer à cet égard, a pris soin non-seulement de le faire examiner à Constantinople par l'un des commerçants les plus honorables et les plus expérimentés, mais encore de le soumettre à Smyrne par les soins du Gouverneur-Général, à une enquête minutieuse, dans laquelle ont été entendus des commerçants notables appartenant à diverses nationalités. A la suite de ces enquêtes, de ces études, et de ces discussions, les concessionnaires ont été amenés à faire subir à leur projet de Tarif diverses modifications importantes dans l'intérêt du commerce; c'est-à-dire que le Conseil d'Etat leur a imposé toutes les conditions qu'il a jugées utiles au commerce, tout en se conciliant avec les intérêts légitimes des concessionnaires.

Tels sont les faits que les Soussignés ont relevés dans le Mazbata du Conseil d'Etat et qui viennent corroborer cette vérité, que l'on ne peut d'aucune façon et d'aucun titre exiger de la Société des Quais de Smyrne d'autres conditions et un autre Tarif que les conditions et le Tarif solennellement consacrés par l'Acte Additionnel du 29 Octobre, 1878.

La Société des Quais de Smyrne n'a donc point à répondre aux griefs exposés par l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre ou par les autres Missions étrangères, et a le droit de s'en tenir purement et simplement aux actes intervenus entre le Gouvernement Impérial et elle,

de sorte qu'en ce qui concerne la suspension de ses travaux et l'ajournement de la translation de la douane ne sont point justifiées.*

En conséquence, les Soussignés émettent l'avis que la Société des Quais de Smyrne a rempli toutes ses obligations envers le Gouvernement Impérial et est fondée à demander à être mise en jouissance de tous ses droits, tels qu'ils résultent de l'Acte de Concession et des Actes Additionnels.

Seconde Question.

Par une note en date du 1er Avril, 1868, son Altesse Fuad Pacha a pris au nom du Gouvernement Impérial l'engagement envers l'Ambassade Britannique de laisser libre devant la douane un espace de 100 archines sur lequel le commerce de Smyrne pourrait embarquer ou débarquer des marchandises sans acquitter les droits de quai résultant de la Concession que la Sublime Porte venait d'accorder.

Cet engagement était en pleine vigueur lorsque les concessionnaires proposèrent au Gouvernement Impérial des modifications importantes à l'Acte de Concession, parmi lesquelles figurait la suppression de la franchise des 100 archines. La Sublime Porte, avant de donner suite à cette proposition, crut devoir la communiquer à l'Ambassade Britannique qui, dès l'origine, s'était fait l'organe des intérêts du commerce de Smyrne dans cette affaire. Cette communication fit l'objet d'une note verbale en date du 14 Avril, 1877.

L'Ambassade Britannique répondit dans la même forme le 18 Avril, 1877, qu'elle consentait "à la rétrocession de l'espace de 100 archines laissé libre de droits de quai," à certaines conditions, parmi lesquelles figurait en première ligne celle-ci: "que les Tarifs de droits de quai actuel serait réduit de manière à pouvoir satisfaire toutes les parties intéressées."

Ces conditions, et notamment celle relative au Tarif, ayant été accueillies par la Sublime Porte, ont été prises en considération par le Ministère des Travaux Publics, et spécialement par le Conseil d'Etat lors de la rédaction des nouvelles Conventions et du nouveau Tarif. L'assentiment donné aux dispositions du Tarif par les commerçants les plus compétents de Constantinople et de Smyrne a sans doute paru au Conseil d'Etat une preuve suffisante que ce nouveau Tarif répondait aux exigences de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, c'est-à-dire "était de nature à satisfaire toutes les parties intéressées." C'est dans ces conditions que le Second Acte Additionnel et le Tarif qui l'accompagne ont été arrêtés par le Conseil d'Etat, adoptés par le Conseil des Ministres, et sanctionnés par Iradé Impérial.

Cependant les stipulations concernant la suppression de la franchise des 100 archines a été l'objet de plaintes de la part de quelques Missions étrangères à la requête de plusieurs commerçants de la ville de Smyrne, qui déclaraient ne point trouver dans le nouveau Tarif les avantages sur lesquels ils savaient en pouvoir compter. L'Ambassade Britannique transmit elle-même à la Sublime Porte, à la date du 20 Décembre, 1879, les observations du Consul Anglais à Smyrne signalant l'insuffisance des réductions du Tarif qui devaient être la compensation et la condition de la suppression des 100 archines. Enfin, par une note plus pressante, en date du 27 Février, 1880, son Excellence Sir H. Layard demanda expressément que les mesures fussent prises par le Gouverneur-Général d'Aïdin, à l'effet d'empêcher la mise en vigueur du nouveau régime, c'est-à-dire la suppression de la franchise des 100 archines et la translation de la douane dans les nouveaux bâtiments construits à cet effet par la Société. C'est à la suite de cette demande que la Sublime Porte a ordonné la suspension des travaux qui s'exécutaient sur les 100 archines, et dont l'achèvement proclamait allait supprimer de fait l'ancienne franchise, devenu caduque par la mise en exécution des nouvelles Conventions.

Pour établir si la demande de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre est ou non fondée, il faut d'abord remarquer qu'elle n'élève aucune objection du chef des diverses conditions qu'elle avait posées en 1878, si ce n'est en ce qui concerne le nouveau Tarif, qui doit être réduite de manière à satisfaire toutes les parties intéressées.

Il faut en outre remarquer, que bien que les autres Missions étrangères n'aient point été consultées par la Sublime Porte lors de la Convention du 29 Octobre, 1878, qui supprime les 100 archines, il y a tout lieu de penser qu'elles n'hésiteraient pas à accepter la solution proposée par l'Ambassade Britannique, ainsi qu'il est dit plus haut est considérée comme ayant pris en main dès l'origine les intérêts du commerce étranger.

Il s'agit donc de rechercher si le Tarif discuté et amendé par le Conseil d'Etat qui

* *Sic in orig.*

avait pleine connaissance des conditions formulées par l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, accorde au commerce des avantages suffisants, et répond, en un mot, au vœu exprimé par cette Ambassade.

Cette question est d'une solution difficile; car s'il est vrai, comme les Soussignés croient l'avoir établi dans la première partie du présent Rapport, que la Société des Quais de Smyrne a rempli tous ses engagements envers le Gouvernement Impérial, il est également et malheureusement vrai, que ces engagements ne concordent pas exactement avec ceux que la Sublime Porte a implicitement contractés envers l'Ambassade Britannique.

La Société des Quais de Smyrne présente des états comparatifs du produit de l'ancien et du nouveau Tarif appliqué aux mêmes marchandises, et il résulte de ce Rapport que les droits de quai ont en moyenne subi une réduction d'environ 18 pour cent. De son côté l'Ambassade Britannique est en possession des deux affirmations qui contrôlent les calculs de la Société; mais ces deux affirmations, bien qu'émanant de la même personne, Mr. Clarke, sont en contradiction l'une avec l'autre, puisque l'une admet une réduction sur l'ancien Tarif d'environ 1 pour cent, tandis que l'autre soutient que le nouveau Tarif aggrave encore les charges du commerce de 5 pour cent.

Il est vrai qu'il est aujourd'hui hors de doute que les droits de quai du nouveau Tarif n'excèdent pas 2 fr. 75 c. par tonne, ce qui avait été annoncé dès l'origine par le représentant de la Société, et n'atteint pas ½ pour cent de la valeur de la marchandise, ce qui semblerait devoir satisfaire à la condition dont l'Ambassade Britannique revendique aujourd'hui le bénéfice; mais ces chiffres eux-mêmes peuvent être contestés ou déclarés insuffisants.

Il y a d'ailleurs une autre question à résoudre avec l'Ambassade Britannique, celle de la perception des droits de quai sur les transbordements de marchandises entre deux navires mouillés dans le port d'abri, ou dont l'un seulement est entré dans le port, et dont l'autre est en rade. Le second Acte Additionnel donne incontestablement le droit à la Société de percevoir une demi-taxe sur les marchandises ainsi transférées, mais l'Ambassade Britannique soutient que cette perception serait contraire aux principes proclamés dans la note de son Altesse Fuad Pacha, et suivant lesquels les navires qui n'usent point des quais ne doivent rien payer.

En présence de ces difficultés et de ces incertitudes les Soussignés estiment qu'il est impossible de décider dès aujourd'hui si les griefs de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre ou des autres Missions étrangères sont ou non fondés, et qu'une enquête contradictoire peut seule éclaircir ces questions délicates, et en permettre la solution.

Les Soussignés ayant émis leur opinion sur les deux questions qui leur étaient soumises, croient de leur devoir de suggérer et de recommander au Gouvernement Impérial le mode de solution suivant qui leur paraît seul propre, d'une part à épargner au Gouvernement Impérial les conséquences de la responsabilité à laquelle il se trouve exposé par suite de l'interruption des travaux sur les 100 archines, et des retards apportés à l'exécution de l'Acte Additionnel du 29 Octobre, 1878; et d'autre part, à amener une entente sur les questions pendantes entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, comme représentant en général les intérêts du commerce étranger:

1. Révoquer immédiatement l'ordre de suspension des travaux, et transférer la douane du local actuel dans le nouveau local construit par la Société des Quais de Smyrne.

2. Autoriser à la Société à percevoir les droits conformément au nouveau Tarif sur tous les quais, y compris les 100 archines anciennement réservées, et ce en faisant jouir le commerce de toutes les facilités d'embarquement et de débarquement dont dispose la Société.

3. Annoncer au commerce que ces droits de quai seront perçus sous protêt jusqu'à la solution des questions pendantes concernant l'application du Tarif, et sous la condition expresse que dans le cas où quelques modifications viendraient à être apportées au Tarif, le montant des droits perçus en trop en raison de ces modifications serait restitué aux commerçants, et qu'enfin il ne sera perçu aucun droit de quai pour le transbordement de marchandises entre navires n'abordant pas au quai, jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été décidé si ces transbordements doivent donner lieu à un droit de quai ou à tout autre droit.

4. Inviter l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à désigner sans délai, dans l'intérêt du commerce étranger, un Commissaire Spécial qui serait chargé, de concert avec le Com-

missaire Spécial que la Sublime Porte désignera: (1) de déterminer si les conditions posées par l'Ambassade de l'Angleterre à la suppression des 100 archines en ce qui touche l'abaissement de l'ancien Tarif ont été remplies, et en cas de négative de fixer la diminution que le Tarif devrait subir en tenant compte de tous les droits et de tous les intérêts engagés dans cette question; (2) de décider si les transbordements de marchandises entre navires dont l'un ou tous deux sont mouillés dans le port d'abri doivent donner lieu à la perception d'un droit de quai ou de tout autre droit, et le cas échéant, de déterminer ce droit en tenant compte des avantages que le commerce maritime retire de l'usage du port d'abri.

Les Soussignés estiment que ce programme, s'il est adopté et mis en pratique simultanément dans toutes ses parties, sauvegardera tous les intérêts.

Constantinople, le 3 Avril, 1880.

No. 46.

Consul Dennis to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 10. Commercial.)

Smyrna, April 17, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 31st ultimo, in which I had the honour to report the convening of a meeting of British merchants and others engaged in trade with Great Britain to consider the relations of British commerce with the Quay Company, I stated that the meeting had appointed a Committee to examine the question in all its bearings, and to report thereon for the information of Her Majesty's Government. I have now the honour to transmit copy of the Report of the said Committee, which has been drawn up with great care and attention. The conclusion arrived at is that, in order thoroughly to protect British trade at Smyrna, it will be necessary to maintain the right to the 100 pics of free access to the custom-house, guaranteed by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

P.S.—I inclose a skeleton plan of Smyrna Harbour, showing the position of the 100 pics in relation to the quay and port.

G. D.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Report.

THE Undersigned, forming the Committee appointed at the meeting held at Her Majesty's Consulate on the 25th March, 1880 (Mr. Paterson and Mr. Sidi having replaced Messrs. Belhomme and Spartali, who were unable to attend), after having carefully examined all the circumstances having reference to the new Concession granted to the Société des Quais of Smyrna, have unanimously agreed upon the following observations on the matters submitted to them for their Report:—

The Capitulations and the Treaty of Commerce state that British merchants are to pay the customs duty, and not an aspre more. It would be a breach of these Treaties if a toll or tax were levied on goods before entering the custom-house, where merchants are bound to carry their merchandize for payment of duties, and, in fact, this principle was fully admitted by the late Fuad Pasha, who instructed the Vali of Smyrna that 100 pics of free scala at the custom-house were to be allowed to the commerce of Smyrna.

If these Treaty rights are to be overruled without the consent of the parties interested, then, indeed, such Treaties would be altogether useless.

On the 21st April, 1876, the Société des Quais addressed a letter to Sir H. Elliot in a very friendly spirit, proposing that Her Majesty's Ambassador would use his influence to obtain the retrocession of the 100 pics free space opposite the custom-house, granted by Vizirial authority, and as an equivalent for them the Quay Company offered to reduce the then existing Tariff about 30 per cent., and to give the merchants the advantages of loading and unloading their goods free of all expense of lighters or boat hire, and accompanied their offer with a plan for projected improvements to the town of Smyrna to be carried out by the Company.

The British merchants, animated with the same friendly feeling, stated that they were willing to agree to the retrocession of the 100 pics on the condition of a real reduction of 30 per cent. on said Tariff, together with certain other conditions contained in their Report of the 27th February, 1877. The Société des Quais, however, flatly refused to conform to their own proposal of 30 per cent. deduction on the then Tariff rates for quay dues.

Since then matters have remained as they were, the public enjoying the 100 pics' free space before the custom-house, and the Quay Company privately reducing its charges to encourage trade to the quay.

About the end of last February, however, the merchants were startled with the announcement of what is virtually a new Concession, granting most preposterous privileges as well as a new Tariff.

Article No. 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" is a most sweeping clause. It is as follows:—

"En conformité de l'Article 6 du Premier Acte Additionnel du Redjib 1285, et en conséquence de la construction du quai devant la douane, les Articles 1, 2, 3, et 4 du dit Acte Additionnel sont déclarés nuls et non avenus.

"La Société des Quais aura le privilége exclusif de percevoir les droits de quais sur la totalité des marchandises débarquées et embarquées sous le contrôle direct de l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, en conformité des Règlements Douaniers, et par accord avec cette Administration.

"La perception de ces droits aura lieu d'après le Tarif spécifié à l'Article 6 ci-après, et commencera immédiatement après le transfert de la Douane à son nouvel emplacement."

This simply means that the Quay Company have the right, under the denomination of quay dues, to tax all goods that may be landed within St. James' Castle, which is about 7 miles in a straight line from the town of Smyrna, and comprises a sea-board of about 25 miles, as shown in the accompanying chart; therefore, all merchandize that may be landed at any place on this very extensive sea frontage would have to pay quay dues to the Company, although the Company has not expended one farthing on any part of it except the quay at Smyrna itself. Such a privilege to the Company would be preposterous and quite inadmissible. It must be borne in mind that the Smyrna quay is perhaps the cheapest constructed of any in Europe, for, generally speaking, where such enterprises have been carried out, large sums of money have been necessary to pay for expropriation; but in this case nothing of the kind has been needful. On the contrary, a very large tract of land has been reclaimed from the sea, and private rights to the foreshore have been roughly handled, especially in cases where proprietors were in poor circumstances, and unable to comply with the arbitrary privileges accorded by the Company's Concession, all such parties having their rights effaced without any compensation whatever. The Quay Company has sold a large portion of this land at enormous prices, and much still remains unsold, for which high prices are being asked. Besides which, not more than one-half of the entire amount expended by the Quay Company on their works is of any advantage to the commerce of Smyrna, as two-thirds of the quay frontage serves merely as a beautiful promenade, along which handsome private residences have been built on land sold by the Company at a very high price, and it was for the special purpose of raising the value of this land that this portion of the quay was constructed.

It is unjust that when captains of vessels refuse to go into the docks to load or discharge, the merchandize should have to pay quay dues in addition to lighterage. It is often very difficult for large steamers to enter and leave so small a dock, and as many of them call here merely to discharge a small portion of their cargo, prior to proceeding on to Constantinople, or elsewhere, making a stay of only a few hours, it is obvious that they cannot avail themselves of the docks in such cases.

There are several reasons advanced by captains trading here against coming into the new docks; for instance, they state that when inside the docks they cannot prevent their crews from indulging in drink. In summer the great heat and exposure to the bad smells cause illness on board, and in winter they consider their vessels safer outside, for in case of very heavy weather the only risk the ship runs when outside is that of dragging her anchor, for which there is ample room, but inside the small crowded docks, if a vessel should break from her moorings, she would be like a bull in a china-shop, as we have seen on several occasions. Besides which there are only a few convenient places in the port for loading and discharging broadside on the quay. But these choice berths are occupied chiefly by the Messageries and Lloyd's steamers, so that if the port were full of

vessels some would be allotted most inconvenient berths, which captains would refuse to occupy.

In Article 3 of the "Premier Acte Additionnel," it states that if the gross receipts of the Société des Quais, exclusive of what passes over the free custom-house space, should amount to 20,000*l.* gross per annum after deducting the 12 per cent. due to the Government, then the Quay Company would have no claim against the Government for quay dues for what goods pass free over the 100 pics. In other words, when the enterprise was undertaken the Société des Quais was satisfied with a gross revenue of about £ T. 22,500 per annum. We are of opinion that the Société des Quais, under the "Premier Acte Additionnel," is in receipt of nearly this sum annually, whereas, by the privileges granted in the new Tariff, the gross revenue of the Quay Company would be between 40,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* per annum, an enormous tax on the trade of Smyrna. This calculation is based on the present trade of Smyrna, but if the new Tariff should be enforced, we are of opinion that the Quay Company would be disappointed in its receipts to the detriment of the merchants, by driving an important part of the trade elsewhere.

Article 6 of the new Concession states:—

"Les marchandises qui seraient transbordées d'un navire sur un autre, tous les deux dans le port d'abri, ou l'un seulement, sans passer par les quais," are to pay half quay dues.

This is most unjust, as in such cases no quay dues ought to be paid.

The same Article, No. 6, continues thus:—

"Ainsi que les marchandises en transit qui seraient débarquées provisoirement à quai pour être de nouveau réembarquées, paieront la moitié du Tarif."

This we think fair and just.

It is mentioned in the Tariff that all unenumerated articles are to pay quay dues on the same basis as the enumerated ones, according to bulk, weight, or value. This would open the door to innumerable disputes, as the Tariff itself is not in all cases based on these principles; for instance, valonia, which is worth 80 to 100 piastres per kintal, the quay dues are fixed at 10 paras the kintal, whereas liquorice-root, which is worth about 40 piastres per kintal, and emery-stone, which is worth about 20 piastres per kintal, are each taxed the same as valonia, say, 10 paras the kintal, and both occupy less bulk than valonia.

We are of opinion that in calculating quay dues value ought not to be taken into account, but merely bulk and weight. The act of goods passing over the quay imposes no responsibility whatever to the Quay Company; the tax levied is a mere toll for passing over the same as on a cart passing over a bridge or road and paying the same toll, whether it is loaded with straw or bullion.

This is the system adopted by the Liverpool Dock Companies, for the dock dues on a case of opium, which is sometimes worth 200*l.*, pays only inward and outward a total of 3*d.* per case.

We admit that the Société des Quais has largely improved the appearance of the port of Smyrna, and has given some conveniences to commerce, but these would prove a great evil if the Company is to enjoy privileges of an arbitrary nature, which are so greatly detrimental to it.

As regards the Tariff, the rates on most articles are so exorbitant that it looks more like having been framed in a jocular spirit than considered as a serious matter having reference to such important interests as the trade and welfare of Smyrna.

If enforced it will certainly drive a large portion of the trade to Syra, and elsewhere, the quay dues being more than the freight between this and the neighbouring islands, and other ports, and on some articles equal to steam freight from Liverpool.

Smyrna is a great emporium of trade, importing largely for the supply of other ports, but if goods imported and sold here for such supply have to pay quay dues inwards and outwards at the rates now proposed to be enforced by the new Tariff, the commerce of Smyrna would be seriously injured by driving such trade elsewhere.

We cite the quay dues inwards and outwards on a few articles, showing the rate charged by the original Tariff, the quay dues according to the new Concession, and compare same with the dock rates in Liverpool:—

Articles.	Original Tariff.		New Tariff.		Liverpool Dock Rates.	
	Piastres.	Para.	Piastres.	Para.		
Butter	In, per ton Out, per ton	9 9	90 90		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Cotton manufactures	In, per large bale Out, per large bale	1 1	60 60			
Cotton	In, per bale Out, per bale	3 3	30 30		In, per bale Out, per bale	0 8 0 4
Cordage	In, per ton Out, per ton	24 24	240 240		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Cotton	In, per bale Out, per bale	3 3	30 30		In, per bale Out, per bale	0 8 0 4
Carpets	In, per bale Out, per bale	6 6	60 60		In, per bale Out, per bale	0 8 0 4
Coal	In, per ton Out, per ton	6 6	60 60		In, per ton Out, per ton	0 6 0 3
Coffee	In, per box Out, per box	12 12	120 120		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Cotton seed	In, per ton Out, per ton	24 24	240 240		In, unenumerated Out, unenumerated	1 6 0 11
Horses	In, each Out, each	6 6	60 60		In, each Out, each	0 8 0 4
Hardware	3 and 2 piastres per package, according to size		2½ piastres per kintal each way, or 25 piastres per 100 in, or 15 piastres per ton		In, per package Out, per package Equal, per ton, in general	0 3 0 2 0 10
Iron	In, per ton Out, per ton	9 9	90 90		In, per ton Out, per ton	0 9 0 6
Leather	In, per ton Out, per ton	12 12	120 120		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 1 3
Steel	In, each Out, each	6 6	60 60		In, each Out, each	0 8 0 4
Opium	In, per case Out, per case	3 3	30 30		In, per case Out, per case	0 8 0 4
Oil	In, per ton Out, per ton	18 18	180 180		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Rice	In, per ton Out, per ton	10 10	100 100		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Raisins and figs	In, per ton Out, per ton	18 18	90 90		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Soap	In, per ton Out, per ton	18 18	180 180		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Saltpetre	In, per ton Out, per ton	20 20	90 90		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Sugar	In, per ton Out, per ton	14 14	140 140		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Wheat	In, per ton Out, per ton	10 10	100 100		In, per ton Out, per ton	1 6 0 11
Wool	In, per ton Out, per ton	81 81	270 270		In, per ton Out, per ton	2 6 0 11

The foregoing Table will show that the quay dues in the new Tariff on some articles are extravagantly in excess of the old Tariff, and that the old Tariff rates, as well as a few modified ones, are still greatly in excess of the Liverpool rates.

Machinery is rated at 10 piastres per piece, so that if a machine is imported in several pieces, as is generally the case for the convenience of shipping, each piece will have to pay 10 piastres quay dues.

Almost all the other articles in the Tariff not referred to by us are rated on the same exorbitant scale.

In quoting Liverpool dock rates it is of the utmost importance that it should be borne in mind that the Liverpool Docks are the finest in the world; and

Secondly, that these docks are tidal ones, built at an expense of ten times that of Smyrna;

Thirdly, that they are all inclosed by very high walls, having gates watched night and day by officials to safeguard all property within;

Fourthly, that numerous sheds are erected opposite the loading and landing berths, so that all merchandize is thoroughly protected by this means from bad weather;

Fifthly, that night and day watchmen protect the sheds to see that no theft is committed or injury done to merchandize deposited there.

Comparing all this with the meagre facilities which our narrow and hampered quay affords for landing and loading cargo, the total absence of either sheds or walls to protect goods from the weather or robbery, we are forced to the conclusion that, while the rates required by either of the Tariffs of the Société des Quais would be exorbitantly

high even with such advantages as those afforded at Liverpool, they become, minus these advantages, perfectly absurd.

Under these circumstances, we conclude—

That no vessel shall be forced to use the docks or quay.

That the transhipment from one vessel to another, if the dock is not used, be free.

That the Tariff of quay dues be reduced to reasonable rates, of which the merchants of Smyrna are the best judges, and not the Conseil d'Etat, which is totally unqualified to decide such matters. Imagine what would be the consequence of leaving to the Board of Trade (equivalent in our case to the Conseil d'Etat) the power to deal with all matters of detail as to quay dues at Liverpool, Hull, Glasgow, &c., the merchants there not being consulted.

That in all cases where lighters must be employed for the loading or discharging of goods, and the goods pass over the quay, one-half quay dues are to be paid, the other half to go towards paying the lighters.

That the Quay Company should have no right to levy quay dues on any goods that do not pass over the quay.

That the proprietors in the Rue Parallèle be justly indemnified for the expropriation of their property, and not in the arbitrary and unfair manner stated in Article 3 of the "Second Acte Additionnel."

If sheds are erected on the quay to protect merchandize, business will flow to it, but as it is goods on the quay are liable to be damaged by rain, there being no protection against this, whereas goods on a lighter can be covered over with a tarpaulin.

We are of opinion that with the above arrangement the docks, if sufficiently large, would prove a convenience to commerce, and if the Tariff is reasonable, accompanied with a desire on the part of the Société to give every facility to the shipping and mercantile interests, nearly all the trade of Smyrna would flow to it; but at the same time, under any circumstances, we decidedly think that, as a safety-valve, the 100 pics' free space are always necessary to protect our commerce, both against any arbitrary action of the Société des Quais, as also the risk of the Porte giving this Société still further "Actes Additionnels" more exorbitant and unjust than even those now under consideration.

Finally, we recommend that the Quay Company, fulfilling all its engagements with the Porte contained in the "Second Acte Additionnel," and further adopting the modifications recommended by us as necessary, should, in consideration thereof, receive from the Sublime Porte an extension of lease which would enable them to recoup themselves without throwing all the cost, interest, and profit of the enterprise on the present generation.

As it now stands, we have no hesitation in saying that the new Concession granted to the Quay Company must result in most disastrous consequences to the trade of Smyrna, and very seriously interfere with its development.

In conclusion, we have merely to add that we fully confirm the letter addressed to Her Majesty's Consul here on the 29th of last month, containing several important points which we have not deemed it necessary to repeat again in this Report, and to express our trust that Her Majesty's Government will continue to protect the great interests of the trade of Smyrna by maintaining the 100 free pics in question.

(Signed) ROBT. WILKIN.
J. B. PATERSON.
W. H. CADOUX.
R. W. WHITTALL.
ALEXANDER SIDI.
E. ESSAYAN.

Smyrna, April 16, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Sketch of Smyrna Quay.

SMYRNA HARBOUR

SMYRNA

Castle of St James

Red shews New Quay

Blue _ _ _ the 100 Pics

Scale of Sea Miles

Cables 10 — 1 Sea Miles

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 1, 1880.*

CONSUL DENNIS telegraphs that 100 pics were closed last night by order of Saïd Pasha, the Prime Minister.

All my representations have been in vain, and it is for Her Majesty's Government now to take such measures as they may think necessary in view of this flagrant breach of faith on the part of the Porte.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 204, Italian and Austrian Representatives will join me in protest which I have sent in against closing of the 100 pics at Smyrna.

No. 49.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9, at night.)

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 206, Austrian Minister has formally protested against the proceedings of Porte in the matter of Smyrna quays and occupation of the 100 pics. I have received no answer to my protest. Have Her Majesty's Government decided upon the measures to be taken to prevent free space being occupied? I understand that the works are being carried on.

No. 50.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 56. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 4, 1880.*

I RECEIVED, on the 1st instant, a telegram from Mr. Consul Dennis, informing me that by orders of the Prime Minister, Said Pasha, the 100 pics of free space, which had been reserved to enable the commerce of Smyrna to have access to the custom-house without payment of the quay dues, had been suddenly closed. This question has been so fully placed before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the correspondence between the Foreign Office and this Embassy, that it is unnecessary to go into it afresh. Your Lordship will find that the Porte had accepted a proposal I made about three weeks ago to send a Commission to Smyrna, composed of a British and Turkish member, to inquire into the whole matter, and to settle the question of the Tariff to the satisfaction of the British commercial community. With Lord Salisbury's authority, I named Mr. St. John as British Delegate on the Commission, and the Porte proposed to appoint as its Representative Parnis Effendi, one of its foreign legal advisers. The Porte was anxious that the Commission should leave immediately for Smyrna, and Mr. St. John was ready to go at once. For some unexplained reason its departure has since been delayed by the Porte. It was fully understood that until this Commission had finished its inquiry and had agreed to such a reduction in the Tariff as might be equitable, both as regards the Quay Company and the commercial community, the 100 pics should remain open. A proposal made by the Porte that the works of the quay should be continued upon them at once, and that British merchants and shippers should pay the quay dues under protest, on the express condition that if the Tariff were reduced they should receive back the amount paid in excess, was summarily rejected by Her Majesty's Government, to whom I had referred it.

Your Lordship may judge of my surprise when I learnt from Mr. Dennis' telegram the flagrant breach of faith committed by the Porte in closing the free space without

giving me any previous notice, after a distinct understanding had been come to that it should be left open, and whilst negotiations were in progress for the settlement of the question. I at once addressed a protest to Sawas Pasha on the subject. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

I have since received a despatch from Mr. Dennis, copy of which I also inclose, reporting fully upon this unjustifiable and arbitrary measure taken by Said Pasha. Your Lordship will perceive that the Porte has given authority to the Council of State to settle the Tariff without consultation with this Embassy or the local commercial communities. I need scarcely point out that his pretension is entirely inadmissible. There are strong grounds for believing that Messrs. Dussaud, the concessionnaires of the quays, have spent a very large sum of money in obtaining support from the Turkish officials and others, and it is perhaps more than probable that some of it has gone to the members of the Council of State. It is not likely, therefore, that the question of the Tariff will be fairly dealt with by the Council, even if it had a right to deal with it.

Mr. Dennis informs me that the Messrs. Dussaud now claim the right to levy quay dues, not only upon vessels transhipping cargo in the bay, but upon all vessels landing or shipping goods on any part of the coast, extending, it is asserted, to the distance of 25 miles.

It is for Her Majesty's Government now to decide as to the measures to be taken to compel the Porte to carry out its engagements, and to leave to the mercantile community of Smyrna the use of the 100 pics and free access to the custom-house until the Tariff is settled and the pretensions of Messrs. Dussaud to levy dues on transhipment, and to exact them on the shores of the bay, are disposed of.

The German, Austrian, Russian, and Italian Missions are supporting me in the protest I have made to the Porte in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—After writing my note I received one from the Sublime Porte, of which I inclose a copy, but as its contents seemed to me to offer no justification of the conduct pursued by the Turkish Government in this matter, I added a postscript to that effect in my communication to Sawas Pasha.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

Pera, May 1, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE just learnt with extreme surprise that the 100 pics, reserved by special agreement between the Porte and Her Majesty's Government in order to give to the commerce of Smyrna free access to the custom-house without payment of quay dues, have been summarily closed by order of his Highness the Prime Minister. It is unnecessary for me to enter upon the merits of this case, which has so long been the subject of correspondence between this Embassy and the Sublime Porte. It is sufficient to state that no longer than a fortnight ago I obtained, as your Excellency is aware, the authorization of Her Majesty's Government to send Mr. St. John, the First Secretary of Her Majesty's Embassy, to Smyrna, with a Commissioner to be named by the Turkish Government, for the purpose of coming to an arrangement with respect to the Tariff to be levied upon merchandize making use of the quays, without which agreement Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to give up the incontestable right of the British commercial community to the use of the 100 pics in question without the payment of the quay dues.

Without any previous notice, whilst negotiations were in progress, and in violation of the rights of Her Majesty's Government, his Highness the Prime Minister has thought fit to deal with the question arbitrarily, and to close the 100 pics. I have not failed to acquaint Her Majesty's Government with this proceeding, which I cannot characterize otherwise than as a flagrant breach of faith, against which I hereby formally protest, holding the Sublime Porte responsible for the consequences.

Since writing the above I have received your Excellency's note of this day's date, which will not probably alter the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, May* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that early this morning I was informed that the 100 pics of free space in front of the custom-house had been closed during the night, and that the new custom-house was to be formally opened this morning. I repaired at once to the konak to learn the meaning of this sudden action on the part of the Ottoman authorities. On my way thither I verified the fact. The passage from the sea to the 100 pics was blocked up by large masses of stone, leaving room only for caïques to pass; the new custom-house was open and decorated with flags, and the old buildings deserted.

The Defterdar, who, in the absence of the Vali, is acting as Governor of Smyrna, informed me that he had taken this step in obedience to telegraphic instructions received yesterday from Said Pasha. He further stated that the new Tariff would be brought into operation at once; that the Council of State was studying the said Tariff to see if it were capable of being reduced, and that if it were reduced any sums now exacted in the shape of quay dues which might be in excess of those demanded by the reduced Tariff would be refunded to the merchants. I have telegraphed this morning to your Excellency to this effect, asking for instructions.

I should also state that I learned at the konak that the telegram of Said Pasha contained no reference to Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel," which the Quay Company interpret as giving them the right to exact dues from all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna, whether they approach the quay or not. The Defterdar considers this a question quite apart from that of the Tariff.

I need hardly add that this sudden and defiant course adopted by the Porte has completely astonished and embarrassed the British mercantile community of Smyrna, and they earnestly trust that Her Majesty's Government will take such steps as will secure to them the rights guaranteed by Treaties, and will save them from being sacrificed to the convenience of an arbitrary and bankrupt Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 1er Mai*, 1880.

EN réponse à la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 27 Février, je m'empresse de porter à sa connaissance une première résolution que la Sublime Porte vient d'être amenée à prendre au sujet des quais de Smyrne, et qui recevra, j'en suis convaincu, son entière approbation.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas qu'à la suite de ses pressantes démarches, la Sublime Porte avait ordonné la suspension des travaux que la Société des Quais de Smyrne exécutait sur l'espace libre des 100 archines et l'ajournement de la mise en vigueur du nouveau Tarif.

Depuis lors, votre Excellence le sait, la Sublime Porte s'est appliquée à rechercher les moyens de résoudre la question qui a été soulevée par l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, à savoir, si le Tarif des quais de Smyrne est établi de manière à satisfaire tous les intérêts.

La Sublime Porte délibère en ce moment sur le mode de procéder pour arriver à la solution de cette question, et je puis annoncer à votre Excellence une très prochaine communication à cet égard.

Cependant, la Société des Quais de Smyrne ayant demandé par l'intermédiaire de l'Ambassade de France le retrait de la mesure de suspension qui lui cause un dommage journalier considérable, et ayant en même temps pris l'engagement de restituer au commerce toute somme qu'elle aurait perçue en trop dans le cas où le Tarif viendrait à être réduit, la Sublime Porte s'est vue dans la nécessité d'autoriser la reprise des travaux et la mise en vigueur du nouveau Tarif.

Votre Excellence voudra bien considérer que cette mesure à la fois de prudence et d'équité ne lése aucun intérêt, puisque le commerce sera remboursé de ce qu'il aurait payé en trop suivant les résolutions qui seront prises incessamment pour la

révision éventuelle du Tarif, tandis que le maintien de l'interdiction eût été pour la Société des Quais de Smyrne la source de pertes irréparables et dont la Sublime Porte ne pouvait assumer la responsabilité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

No. 51.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 11. Commercial.)

Smyrna, May 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Saturday, the 1st instant, the Ottoman Government attempted to settle the question of the quay of Smyrna, which has been so long pending, by sudden and violent measures, closing the 100 pics during the previous night, and formally opening the new custom-house in the morning, thus forcibly imposing on British commerce the new Tariff of quay dues, which the merchants, in their Report on the subject, which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship with my despatch No. 10, Commercial, of the 17th ultimo, had declared to be most objectionable.

I immediately repaired to the konak for an explanation, on receiving which I dispatched the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador:—

"The 100 pics were closed last night by order of Saïd Pasha. Defterdar tells me if the Tariff is reduced the surplus of quay dues now exacted will be repaid to the merchants. Have you instructions for me?

"DENNIS."

I followed up this telegram by a despatch to his Excellency, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and in obedience to Sir Henry Layard's instructions I immediately forwarded a protest to the Defterdar, copy of which I also inclose.

This morning I have transmitted to Constantinople a further despatch on the subject, in which I have endeavoured to express the indignation felt by the British community here at the arbitrary and violent treatment to which they have been subjected, and by which their interests are completely sacrificed to those of the Quay Company, and at the defiant attitude thus assumed by the Porte towards Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, May 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that early this morning I was informed that the 100 pics of free space in front of the custom-house had been closed during the night, and that the new custom-house was to be formally opened this morning. I repaired at once to the konak to learn the meaning of this sudden action on the part of the Ottoman authorities. On my way thither I verified the fact. The passage from the sea to the 100 pics was blocked up by large masses of stone, leaving room only for caïques to pass; the new custom-house was open and decorated with flags, and the old building deserted. The Defterdar, who, in the absence of the Vali, is acting as Governor of Smyrna, informed me that he had taken this step in obedience to telegraphic instructions received yesterday from Saïd Pasha. He further stated that the new Tariff would be brought into operation at once; that the Council of State* was studying the said Tariff to see if it were capable of being reduced, and that, if it were reduced, any sums now exacted in the shape of quay dues which might be in excess of those demanded by the reduced Tariff would be refunded to the merchants. I have telegraphed this morning to your Excellency to this effect, asking for instructions.

I should also state that I learned at the konak that the telegram of Saïd Pasha contained no reference to Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel," which the Quay Company interpret as giving them the right to exact dues from all vessels entering the

* This was incorrectly translated to me. It should be "the Council of Ministers."

Bay of Smyrna, whether they approach the quay or not. The Defterdar considers this a question quite apart from that of the Tariff.

I need hardly add that this sudden and defiant course adopted by the Porte has completely astonished and embarrassed the British mercantile community of Smyrna, and they earnestly trust that Her Majesty's Government will take such steps as will secure to them the rights guaranteed by Treaties, and will save them from being sacrificed to the convenience of an arbitrary and bankrupt Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Protest.

WHEREAS the Undersigned has this morning received information from Surouri Effendi, Defterdar of the Vilayet of Aïdin, at present acting as Governor-General in the absence of his Highness the Vali, Hamdi Pasha, to the effect that the Porte has given him instructions by telegram to shut up the 100 pics of free access to the custom-house, and to put the new Tariff of quay dues into immediate execution; and whereas these instructions aforesaid are in direct contravention of the Treaties existing between Great Britain and the Ottoman Porte, and of the guarantees given by Fuad Pasha, the Grand Vizier, when the Concession for the construction of the quay was first granted in 1868, and in violation, moreover, of the distinct and solemn promise recently given to Sir Henry Layard, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, that no action would be taken in this matter by the Ottoman Government without its previously coming to an understanding with the said Embassy: Now, seeing that by the course adopted by the Porte, by the sudden and surreptitious closing of the 100 pics, and by the imposition of the new Tariff, in defiance of Conventions made and guarantees given, British commerce will be forcibly subjected to the payment of heavy dues from which it has hitherto been exempt, I, the Undersigned, in obedience to instructions received from Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, do hereby formally, solemnly, and most energetically protest against the Ottoman Government for this flagrant breach of faith and utter disregard of its engagements; and in the name of Her Britannic Majesty's Government I hold the Ottoman Porte responsible for all losses, damages, and interest, of whatever description, that may accrue to British merchants or to British commerce in consequence of these faithless, unjust, and arbitrary proceedings aforesaid of the Ottoman Government.

Done at Smyrna, at the British Consulate, this 1st day of May, 1880.

(Signed and Sealed) GEO. DENNIS,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Smyrna and its Dependencies.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, May 2, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram and despatch of yesterday's date, I have now the honour to inclose translation of the telegram sent on Friday to the Acting Governor of Smyrna by Saïd Pasha, instructing him to close the 100 pics, and put the new Tariff of quay dues into immediate operation, which telegram I transmitted yesterday to your Excellency in the original, having received it only as the post was leaving. After dispatching my letter I received the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"*May* 1, 10·50 A.M.

"I have reason to believe that the Porte will permit the continuation of the quay works on the 100 pics, notwithstanding its distinct assurance to me that it would not do so without a previous understanding with the Embassy. In this case protest formally and energetically against this breach of faith, and inform me at once.

"LAYARD."

I lost no time in obeying these instructions, and forwarded to the Defterdar a protest, copy of which I have now the honour to inclose, and which I trust will meet

with your Excellency's approval. I followed it up by this telegram to your Excellency:—

"I have protested formally and energetically against the Porte for this breach of faith, and will forward copy on Monday.

"DENNIS."

I will venture to make a few observations on this subject, which, I believe, reflect the feelings and opinions of the British merchants of Smyrna.

It is evident from the present action of the Porte in dealing with this Quay question, as well as from its attempted action on the 13th March last, as reported in my despatch of the 23rd February, which was frustrated only by the determined opposition of your Excellency and of Her Majesty's Government, that the Porte has all along intended to shirk its Treaty engagements and the Conventions it has entered into with the British and other foreign Governments relative to this Quay question; that it has been its systematic endeavour to ignore the rights of the mercantile community of Smyrna, and to force them, by sudden and violent measures, to submit to what it could not hope to reconcile them by any other means, trusting that foreigners, as well as rayahs, would tamely accept an accomplished fact. It is evident, in short, that it has been the aim and object of the Porte to treat the large and influential body of British and foreign merchants in Smyrna in the same manner as it has recently acted towards its own unhappy subjects in the repudiation of the paper, and the depreciation of the metallic, currency, in the vain belief that the suddenness and arbitrary character of the measures adopted would overcome all tendency to resistance. Regardless of the claims of honour and of justice, and indifferent to all considerations but those of its own interests, it has at length achieved its object by a *coup de main*, but it is to be hoped that its success will be but short-lived. All the British colony here feel that the peremptory and arbitrary step just taken by the Porte is an act of defiance, and a deliberate insult to Her Majesty's Government, as well as to all the other Powers with which the Porte has contracted similar engagements.

I will further venture to remark that the intention declared by Said Pasha, to leave the question of the Tariff to be settled by the Council of Ministers, by which declaration he attempts to modify the violence of the *coup de main* he has perpetrated, is, in reality, an aggravation of it. It is impossible that the Council of Ministers, even were it actuated by the highest sentiments of justice and equity, can possess sufficient acquaintance with the details of the commerce of Smyrna to be able to revise the Tariff with a due regard to the claims of the merchants to adequate compensation for the rights they are called on to surrender. The experiment of constructing at Constantinople the Tariff for Smyrna has already been made and has signally failed, and Her Majesty's Government have consequently continued to insist on the maintenance of the free space of 100 pics, to secure to the merchants their Treaty rights. But the conduct of the Porte throughout this affair makes it manifest that it has neither the wish nor intention to reduce the Tariff so as to give the merchants a fair compensation for the surrender of the 100 pics.

The examination of the Tariff by the Council of Ministers will assuredly result in the declaration that very little reduction is practicable, or, more probably, that the Tariff is very moderate, and must be accepted as it stands. It is vain to hope that any satisfactory proposal of reduction can emanate from such a source. This can only be looked for from a Commission so constituted as fairly to represent all the interests concerned. It is vain also to trust to the promises of the Porte, which makes and breaks its engagements with equal facility, for the return of any moneys that may now be exacted from the merchants in the shape of quay dues; the only hope the merchants can entertain of recoupment is that such sums will be deducted by Her Majesty's Government from the revenues of Cyprus.

The merchants are now convinced that the only means available to insure protection to British commerce in Smyrna is for Her Majesty's Government to insist on the retention of the 100 pics. This is the conclusion at which they had arrived in their Report on the Tariff, which I forwarded to your Excellency with my despatch of the 17th April, and now they have had further experience of the utter faithlessness of the Porte, they throw to the winds all hope of obtaining adequate compensation for the loss of the 100 pics by a reduction of the Tariff, and cry out, one and all, for the 100 pics as their only safeguard from the arbitrary exactions of the Ottoman Government. If the free space which they have hitherto enjoyed in front of the old custom-house is now blocked up by the works of the Quay Company, an equal free space can be

claimed in front of the new custom-house, even though it now stands on the quay itself. The transfer of the Custom-house staff from one building to another abrogates no rights of the merchants, who claim access to the custom-house for their goods free of all dues save those sanctioned by Treaties. It may be left to the Quay Company, which is fully alive to its own interests, to obtain what indemnification it can from the Porte for what it will doubtless regard as a concession to the merchants. With this the merchants have nothing to do. It is the Porte which has disregarded its solemn engagements with Her Majesty's Government, and broken faith with your Excellency in a flagrant manner; it is the Porte which has endeavoured to override the rights it has guaranteed to the merchants, and to impose exorbitant and unauthorized taxes on their commerce, and in this last successful, but most audacious, attack upon them, has set Her Majesty's Government at defiance. It is the Porte, therefore, which should suffer all the consequences of its misconduct in this affair, and not the merchants of Smyrna, whose interests it would fain sacrifice to satisfy the claims of the Quay Company.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Telegram received from the Prime Minister, dated April 17, 1880.

(Translation.)

IN pursuance of the memorandum of the legal advisers of the Sublime Porte, transmitted to your Highness by post, I wrote to you at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that until the opposition made by the Ambassadors of the friendly Powers to the new Tariff is set aside, not to permit quay dues to be levied on exports and imports passing over the 100 pics left free in front of the custom-house, and to delay the filling up of the 100 pics, and the transfer of the staff of the Administration to the new custom-house.

Now, the Council of Ministers is at present deliberating what manner they shall adopt to ascertain whether the Tariff has been modified or not, and as the Company of Dussaud have engaged that should the said Tariff be modified they will return to the merchants any excess of dues levied by them from this day to the date of such modification of the Tariff, and as, under the circumstances, the only matter in dispute is as to the way in which the examination of the said Tariff is to be made, and as, considering the engagement of the Company, there appears no reason why the dues should not be levied, I have to request that no further opposition be made to the levying of the dues, that the suspension of the works at the 100 pics be removed, and that the staff of the Custom-house be transferred to the new buildings.

No. 52.

Memorandum by Mr. Owen respecting Smyrna Quays.

IN 1868 a Concession was granted by the Porte to Messrs. Dussaud, Brothers, for the construction of a port and quay at Smyrna. Consul Dennis, No. 14; December 19, 1879.

Assurances were at the time given, on the part of the Porte, to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, that the proposed works should not involve any extra charges upon British commerce; the right of free commerce being expressly guaranteed over a space of the shore 100 pikes (Turkish measurement), in breadth, immediately in front of the custom-house.

In 1876 representations were addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy by Messrs. Dussaud, alleging the difficulties and disadvantages to which the merchants were subject, while carrying on their operations over the 100 pikes; and pointing out the inconvenient position of the custom-house, in rear of the 100 pikes, which they represented as unapproachable by vehicles, and inaccessible to ships. Messrs. Dussaud proceeded to propose the transference of the custom-house to their quay, promising that, the right of free traffic over the 100 pikes being surrendered, a lower scale of quay dues should be charged than those actually in force.

The British merchants at first showed themselves disposed to renounce their claim to the 100 pikes of land, provided that they could obtain not only an adequate compensation for commerce, but also some advantages for the town. Mr. Jocelyn, No. 10, Commercial; March 30, 1877.

To Mr. Jocelyn, No. 13, Commercial; March 31, 1877.

Her Majesty's Government, moreover, at the time, did not view the proposed scheme unfavourably, it being stipulated that the Porte should engage that when the quay passed into their hands, after the expiration of the Company's Concession, the dues should not be raised without a free passage to the custom-house being restored.

The mercantile community, however, upon a further investigation of the terms offered by Messrs. Dussaud, came to the conclusion that the reductions of dues promised by Majesty's that firm were illusory.

To Mr. Layard, No. 1, Commercial; April 25, 1877.

The merchants, moreover, maintained that the proposed improvements ought to include paving and drainage works; and this view met with the concurrence of Her Government.

Here the question, for a time, rested; the construction of the new custom-house on the Quay Company's ground being proceeded with, and partial paving and draining operations being undertaken.

Complaints, however, arose on the part of the merchants, in the course of 1878, that the Quay Company, while prepared to take possession of the 100 pikes of land, were not fulfilling their engagements, either by reducing their Tariff, or by adequately carrying out the proposed improvements.

Sir H. Layard, No. 90, Commercial; December 20, 1879.

In this state of affairs Sir Henry Layard called for a Report on the matter from Mr. Consul Dennis,* a copy of which is annexed.

A copy of this Report was also communicated to the Porte.

Sir H. Layard, No. 12, Commercial; February 24, 1880.

Towards the end of February 1880 information was received through Sir H. Layard

Sir H. Layard, No. 13, Commercial; February 24, 1880.

and Consul Dennis that the new custom-house, which had been constructed by Messrs.

Consul Dennis, No. 2, Commercial; February 23, 1880.

Dussaud, was about to be handed over to the Ottoman authorities, the 100 pikes of land, hitherto kept open for free commerce, to be closed, and a Tariff of dues (the items of which did not meet with the concurrence of the local merchants) levied upon all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna, whether they availed themselves of the quay or not.

Consul Dennis, No. 3, Commercial; March 5, 1880.

Consul Dennis thereupon, by Sir H. Layard's direction, addressed to the Governor-General the protest of which a copy is annexed.†

To Sir H. Layard, No. 27, Commercial; March 9, 1880.

Sir H. Layard was, moreover, instructed by telegraph to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government would consider the Turkish Government responsible for charges

Sir H. Layard, No. 30; March 16, 1880.

levied on British subjects or goods, if any change were made in existing arrangements at Smyrna, pending an understanding on the subject. The result of these remonstrances was that telegraphic instructions were sent by the Porte to the Governor-General of Smyrna to suspend all proceedings in the matter for the time being.

In this position of the question Consul Dennis suggested to Sir H. Layard that if it was decided that an agreement was to be arrived at between the Porte (on behalf of the Quay Company) and the Smyrna merchants, by means of a Commission, the latter had better sit at Smyrna, and not at Constantinople.

The question, he added, would also arise whether the Commission, if decided upon, should be composed of the Representatives of the different nations interested, or of the different branches of commerce proper to Smyrna. If the former, Mr. Dennis apprehended that British interests would be swamped.

As the Representatives of Great Britain and the United States had alone protested against the proposed action of the Porte in the matter, Mr. Dennis suggested that the merchants of the two countries might properly take a leading part in the Commission.

To Sir H. Layard, No. 43, Commercial; April 6, 1880.

Sir H. Layard was thereupon informed that the question of the course to be adopted was left to his own discretion; that, as the matter was purely local, it would seem that the Commission had better sit at Smyrna, and his Excellency was requested to concert with his United States' colleague on the subject.

Sir H. Layard, Telegraphic, April 5, 1880.

In the meantime Sir H. Layard reported by telegraph a proposal on the part of the Porte that the Quay Company should be allowed to continue their works on the 100 pikes on the understanding that the dues should be paid under protest, and all excess charges eventually returned.

Also that a Delegate on the part of the Porte should meet, at Smyrna, one from Her Majesty's Embassy.

To Sir H. Layard, No. 69, Commercial; April 16, 1880.

It was, however, pointed out to Sir H. Layard, in reply, that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the first proposal of the Porte was not expedient; but it was considered desirable to expedite the proceedings of the Commission at Smyrna, Mr. St. John being appointed to act on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

Consul Dennis, No. 6, Commercial; March 31.

A meeting of British merchants and other residents in Smyrna was held at Her

* Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

† Inclosure in No. 32.

Majesty's Consulate on the 25th March last, to consider what steps should be taken in reference to the present position of the Quay question.

The main resolution was in favour of the retention of 100 pikes of land to afford access to the custom-house without payment of quay dues.

This, it was considered, would be the most satisfactory solution of the question, avoiding, as it would, the necessity for the appointment of a Commission.

The proposed levying of quay dues on all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna, whether making use of the quay or not, was also condemned, as likely to prove fatal to British commerce.

A Committee was appointed to examine the question generally, note being especially taken of the fact that one of its members was a French gentleman, as tending to show that the British merchants, in opposing the proposed action of the Quay Company, were not animated by a mere narrow prejudice against its French nationality.

This point was especially insisted on by Mr. Consul Dennis, in answer to a telegram from Sir H. Layard, after Messrs. Dussaud had left Smyrna for Constantinople, in order to protest against the suspension of the works for the construction of the quay in front of the 100 pikes reserve.

What the merchants objected to, Mr. Dennis pointed out, was the levying of some additional 18,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* a-year in quay dues (which Messrs. Dussaud expected to obtain from the closing of the 100 pikes), contrary to the engagement entered into by the Porte with Her Majesty's Government.

The views of the British merchants on the matter are set forth in a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Consul, of which a copy is annexed.*

Consul Dennis, No. 7, Commercial; April 8.

Resolutions were also passed at a meeting of Italian merchants of Smyrna, in favour of maintaining their right to the 100 pikes until they had secured a satisfactory modification of the new Tariff.

In reporting the above to Her Majesty's Embassy, Mr. Dennis remarked upon a divergence of opinion between the Italian and English merchants as to the formation of the proposed Commission of Inquiry into the Quay question; for while the former proposed to exclude from the Commission the Representatives of the smaller nationalities, and to place all those who were admitted on an equal footing, it was apprehended, on the part of the English merchants, that under such an arrangement British interests, which greatly outweighed others at Smyrna, would be very inadequately represented.

At a meeting of American merchants the right of free access to the 100 pikes was also maintained.

Sir H. Layard, No. 41, Commercial, Confidential; April 12.

Annexed is a copy, received through Sir H. Layard, of the confidential opinion of the Foreign Legal Advisers of the Porte with respect to the quay dues question.†

It will be seen that this opinion is on two points, and is to the effect (1) that the Smyrna Quay Company have fulfilled their obligations towards the Porte; and (2) that it is doubtful whether the Porte, under its engagement with Her Majesty's Embassy, can close the free space at Smyrna, and put into force the new Tariff of dues.

This opinion of the Ottoman Law Advisers amounts to an admission that Her Majesty's Government are in the right in the matter.

They propose that, pending inquiry, the dues should be levied under protest.

To Sir H. Layard, No. 67, Commercial; April 22.

As has been seen above, the substance of this proposal was communicated by Sir H. Layard by telegraph, and his Excellency was informed in reply that it could not be accepted. This decision was further conveyed to him at fuller length in a despatch dated the 22nd April.

Consul Dennis, No 16, Commercial; April 17.

Annexed is a copy of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Smyrna merchants to inquire into the Quay question.‡

It sets out with an assertion that by the Capitulations and the Treaty of Commerce British merchants are to pay the customs duty and no more, and that it would be a breach of these obligations if a toll or tax were levied on goods before entering the custom-house.

It recapitulates the overtures made in 1876 by the "Société des Quais" to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for the cession to them of the 100 pikes of space opposite the custom-house, in exchange for the reduction of the existing Tariff 30 per cent., together with other advantages, which conditions, it is alleged, the Quay Company subsequently failed to carry out.

Attention is called to the sweeping character of the privileges which it was proposed to grant to the Company, including the right to tax all goods landed on a sea-board of about 25 miles in extent. The limited extent of the accommodation afforded by the

* Inclosure in No. 43.

† Inclosure in No. 45.

‡ Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

new quay is also referred to. Various details of the new Tariff are commented upon, and Tables of figures relating thereto are annexed.

The Report concludes with suggestions as to the manner in which the Company might best fulfil its engagements with the Porte, without inflicting unreasonable burdens upon shipping, the opinion being expressed that the retention of the 100 pikes of free space would be always necessary to protect British commerce both against any arbitrary action of the "Société des Quais," as also against the risk of the Porte granting to the Company still more exorbitant and unjust privileges.

On the 1st May Sir H. Layard reported by telegraph that the 100 pikes had been closed on the preceding evening by order of the Prime Minister.

His Excellency further reported that he had sent in to the Porte a protest against this measure,* in which his Italian and Austrian colleagues would join.

Sir H. Layard, No. 56, Commercial; May 4.

It will be seen that in Sir H. Layard's note to the Porte of the 1st May, he refers to a communication from Sawas Pasha of the same date,† wherein it is alleged that orders had been given for the resumption of the works of the Quay Company at the instance of the French Embassy, assurances being also given that any dues levied in excess would eventually be returned.

Consul Dennis, No. 11, Commercial; May 8, 1880.

A protest, of which a copy is inclosed,‡ was also addressed by Mr. Consul Dennis to the Acting Governor-General of Smyrna, by direction of Sir H. Layard.

W. O.

Foreign Office, May 14, 1880.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 3. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 56, Commercial, of the 4th instant, relative to the Smyrna Quay question.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much surprise the action of the Porte in this matter, and consider that they have much reason for dissatisfaction.

The circumstances of the case are fully stated in the memorandum which accompanied my despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 17th instant (of which, for convenience of reference, an additional copy is herewith inclosed) and in Sir H. Layard's despatch of the 4th instant above referred to. The Porte has broken the engagements on this matter entered into with Her Majesty's Government, and has done so in a manner which aggravates this breach of good faith.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will remonstrate very strongly with the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government do not recognize the right of the Turkish Government to remit to the Council of State the settlement of the question of quay dues at Smyrna. You will repeat Sir H. Layard's protest, and state that Her Majesty's Government hold the Porte responsible for sums thus illegally levied.

The local inquiry, to which the Porte had agreed, seems the most satisfactory course to adopt in order to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the question. It would accordingly seem advisable again to urge it upon the Porte, but I am willing to leave to your discretion the particular course to be taken with this view.

I have also to request that you will ascertain what steps are being taken to keep an account of dues paid under protest, and to insure the safe custody of these sums.

I inclose a copy of a despatch which I have caused to be addressed to Mr. Consul Dennis.§

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 54.

Mr. Lister to Consul Dennis.

(No. 4. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 11, Commercial, of the 3rd instant, and in conveying to you his Lordship's approval

* Inclosure 1 in No. 50. † Inclosure 2 in No. 50. ‡ Inclosure 2 in No. 51. § No. 54.

of your proceedings in the Smyrna Quay question, I am to inform you that Mr. Goschen has received instructions as to the communication to be made to the Porte in the matter.

You will keep Mr. Goschen fully informed on the subject, and supply him with any particulars which he may wish to ascertain.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 55.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 12. Commercial.)

Smyrna, May 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I sent yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing his Excellency that the Quay Company of Smyrna are now putting in force their pretensions to impose quay dues on all goods landed or shipped in any part of the Bay of Smyrna, even though no use whatever is made of the quay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, May 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Quay Company of Smyrna are now putting in force their claims under Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" of the new Cahier des Charges granted by the Porte, to levy quay dues on all goods landed or shipped in any part of the Bay of Smyrna, even when no use is made of the quay. To all previous remonstrances on this point the reply from the konak has always been that this Article was incorrectly translated from the original Turkish, and would not bear the signification put upon it in the Cahier des Charges, but it is now clear that the Quay Company have correctly interpreted it, from the fact that they are now putting it in force with the sanction of the Ottoman authorities. All that is left for me to do is to request the merchants from whom quay dues are extorted to register such payments at this Consulate, in order that they may be in a position to reclaim the amounts, when Her Majesty's Government may see fit to enforce repayment of these illegal exactions on British commerce, for which they have officially announced that they hold the Porte responsible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 56.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 66. Commercial.)

Therapia, May 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Dennis, in which he informs me that the Quay Company at Smyrna are now levying quay dues upon all goods landed or shipped in any part of the Bay of Smyrna.

Not having received any answer to my despatches and telegrams to your Lordship relating to this flagrant breach of faith on the part of the Porte, I do not feel competent to take any further action in the matter without instructions from your Lordship.

I am informed that the British mercantile and shipping community of Smyrna express great surprise and indignation at the manner in which my protests to the Turkish Government have been treated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, May 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Quay Company of Smyrna are now putting in force their claims, under Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" of the new Cahier des Charges granted by the Porte, to levy quay dues on all goods landed or shipped in any part of the Bay of Smyrna, even when no use is made of the quay. To all previous remonstrances on this point the reply from the konak has always been that this Article was incorrectly translated from the original Turkish, and would not bear the signification put upon it in the Cahier des Charges, but it is now clear that the Quay Company have correctly interpreted it, from the fact that they are now putting it in force with the sanction of the Ottoman authorities. All that is left for me to do is to request the merchants from whom quay dues are extorted to register such payments at this Consulate, in order that they may be in a position to reclaim the amounts when Her Majesty's Government may see fit to enforce repayment of these illegal exactions on British commerce, for which they have officially announced that they hold the Porte responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, June 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 66, Commercial, of the 24th ultimo, on the question of the Smyrna quay dues. Before addressing your Excellency further in the matter, I am awaiting your report of your action on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 58.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 5. Commercial.)

Therapia, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 3, Commercial, of the 18th May, on the subject of the Smyrna quays, I am concerting the necessary steps to be taken with the Representatives of other interested Powers.

I have placed myself in communication with the Representatives of Austria and Italy, and I learn that they have received instructions to support any steps I may take.

Your Lordship will remember that at one time there was a proposal for an inquiry, to be held by M. Parnis, a legal adviser of the Porte, and Mr. St. John.

I am informed that when the substance of Lord Salisbury's telegram to Sir H. Layard of the 15th April, to the effect that the 100 pics should not be given up till a settlement was arrived at, was communicated to M. Parnis he remarked, "Then all is lost."

The Porte have now proposed to send M. Parnis alone to Smyrna, in order to obtain from the Quay Company and the principal native and foreign merchants the necessary information for arriving at a solution calculated to satisfy all the interests concerned.

M. Parnis called on me to explain this course. I told him in very clear language that I considered such an arrangement totally inadmissible, that the merchants of Smyrna would never be content with an inquiry conducted by the Representative of the Porte alone, even if that inquiry were only preliminary, and I should concert with the Representatives of other Powers what steps should be taken in view of the somewhat flagrant breach of faith on the part of the Turkish Government.

I will not fail to acquaint your Lordship on what steps we may decide as regards an inquiry. It is clear that the Porte has seldom acted in a more high-handed manner.

The seizure of the 100 pics was an indefensible act, and I presume it will be necessary to act firmly in the matter.

In the meantime, I have telegraphed to the Consul at Smyrna to ascertain, in accordance with your Lordship's wish, whether effectual steps are being taken for the protection of the interests involved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 59.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)

Smyrna, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the pretensions of the Smyrna Quay Company to levy quay dues on all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna for commercial purposes, whether they avail themselves of the quay or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Smyrna, June 7, 1880.

Sir,

HAVING received instructions from Lord Granville to keep your Excellency informed of everything bearing on the Smyrna Quay question, I had the honour, in confirmation of my despatch of the 21st May, in which I reported that the Quay Company are now putting in force their claims, under Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" of the new Cahier des Charges granted to them by the Porte, to levy quay dues on all vessels landing or shipping goods in any part of the Bay of Smyrna, even when no use whatever is made of the quay, to dispatch to your Excellency, on the 5th instant, a telegram of which the inclosed is a copy.

The British brig "Resolven" arrived here on the 28th ultimo with a cargo of coals from Cardiff, consigned to Messrs. Joly and Co. These gentlemen sold the cargo to Mr. Mieridits, an American citizen, who, after paying the customs duty, for which he holds a receipt, and obtaining from the collector a permit to land the coals, proceeded to discharge them on his private wharf at Karatash, in this bay, about 2 miles from the custom-house and quay. His proceedings, however, were presently interrupted by the collector, who revoked his permit on the ground that the cargo could not be landed until the dues of the Quay Company had also been paid. The purchaser refused to submit to this exaction, as neither vessel nor cargo had approached the quay. The "Resolven" therefore lies in the bay with the greater part of her cargo on board, and her master naturally protests, claiming demurrage at the rate of 5*l.* a-day. I consequently waited on the Governor-General, and although his Highness repeated his assurance that, in his opinion, the original Turkish of the said Article would not sanction the interpretation put upon it by Messrs. Dussaud, whose authority appears now to be paramount in Smyrna, he confessed himself powerless to overrule that authority, and unable to do more than telegraph to the Porte for instructions. I am now awaiting the reply. The case is complicated by the mixture of the national interests involved. By the sale the cargo becomes American property, yet the illegal tax sought to be imposed on it is none the less a tax on British commerce, and the resistance of the American to pay the tax seriously affects the interests of the British shipowner and the British consignee. I now learn from the Governor-General that, although he has received no reply from the Porte to his telegram of Saturday, he has ascertained from the Collector of Customs that he is bound in a case like this to demand the payment of quay dues, the alternative being, in case of refusal, that the cargo must be brought to the custom-house and landed there. I am aware that the Quay Company, as representing the Ottoman Government in this matter, claim the power, under the Capitulations, to compel all vessels to land or

discharge their cargoes at the custom-house, but this claim receives no support either from written law or from usage. Not one word is said in the Capitulations, nor, so far as I can ascertain, in any subsequent Treaty or engagement made by the Porte with Great Britain, to bear out this pretension, and local custom is notoriously opposed to any such claim. Moreover, the Capitulations are not very aptly chosen by the Quay Company as the basis on which to establish their claim, as they are directly opposed to the exaction of quay dues, nothing being clearer than the agreement of the Porte, repeated again and again in those time-honoured Conventions, to charge on British commerce the fixed customs dues, inwards and outwards, and "not an asper more." Besides, the threat of forcing all vessels to discharge at the custom-house must prove to a great extent an empty one, for the quay in front of the custom-house is not spacious enough to admit of more than a few cargoes of coal, and were the threat in every case put into execution, it would be productive of as much inconvenience to the Quay Company as to the merchants interested.

The Quay Company, with no small reluctance, have for a time at least yielded to the demands of the Ottoman Railway Company for exemption from the payment of quay dues on all goods landed on the railway pier for the use of that Company, and also to similar demands made by the Gas Company in the case of a cargo of coals landed on the same pier for its special use; but whether they have abated their pretensions to exact their dues on produce brought from the interior to be shipped at the railway piers, or on certain goods landed thereon for transmission to towns inland, which have never yet been landed at the custom-house of Smyrna, has yet to be proved. I am inclined to entertain doubts on this point from the fact that in the discussions that have recently taken place between the representatives of the Ottoman Railway Company and the Smyrna Gas Company, respectively, and the Director of the Quay Company, the latter gentleman has endeavoured to persuade the former to pay their dues, if only "for the sake of example," promising in each case that the money should be returned on the following day. The Director of the Ottoman Railway Company assured me that, should this power of taxing all merchandize transmitted by railway be conceded to the Quay Company, it will occasion a loss to his railway, in the shape of traffic, of at least 10,000*l.* a-year.

In the telegram which I had the honour to dispatch to your Excellency on the 5th instant I asked permission to protest against this preposterous pretension of the Quay Company to impose their Tariff on all vessels entering the Bay of Smyrna for commercial purposes, whether they wished to make use of the quay or desired to discharge or load at any other spot within its circuit of 25 miles, as heretofore; and I asked for this permission because, in the formal protests I have hitherto been instructed to make against the action of the Ottoman Government in supporting the claims of the Quay Company, I have protested against this most extravagant pretension by anticipation only, and it appeared to me that, having since been carried into execution, it deserved to be encountered by a special protest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, June 5, 1880.*

ENGLISH brig's cargo coals sold by consignee to American subject, who, though customs duty paid, is refused permission to discharge coals at his own wharf, 2 miles from quay and custom-house, unless quay dues also paid. American refuses payment, therefore cargo remains on board brig. Master protests for demurrage. Vali says he has no power to order discharge, but telegraphs Porte for instructions. If reply unfavourable, shall I protest formally against this monstrous pretension of Quay Company to exact dues although quay not used?

No. 60.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 25. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 16, 1880, 1 P.M.*

THE steps taken by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 5, Commercial, of the 7th instant, in the Smyrna Quay question, are approved.

No. 61.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 9. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 15, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that I have dealt with the question of the Smyrna quay dues in my despatch No. 42, which is sent by the messenger to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 62.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 14. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Dennis' despatch No. 33 of the 7th instant, copy of which he has forwarded to your Lordship, respecting the pretension of the Customs authorities at Smyrna to exact quay dues from the British brig "Resolven," I have the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pásha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, June 17, 1880.*

ACCORDING to information which has reached me from Smyrna, it appears that, not content with levying dues on goods which, in violation of formal engagements, are now compelled to pass over the quay, the Quay Company has put in force an equally unfounded claim to quay dues on all vessels landing or shipping goods in any part of the Bay of Smyrna, even when no use whatever is made of the quay. The following is an instance.

The British brig "Resolven" arrived at Smyrna on the 28th May last, with a cargo of coals from Cardiff, consigned to Messrs. Joly and Co. These gentlemen sold the cargo to Mr. Mieriditz, an American citizen, who, after paying the customs duty, for which he holds a receipt, and obtaining from the collector a permit to land the coals, proceeded to discharge them on his private wharf at Kharatash in the bay, about 2 miles from the custom-house and quay. His proceedings, however, were presently interrupted by the collector, who revoked his permit on the ground that the cargo could not be landed until the dues of the Quay Company had also been paid.

The purchaser refused to submit to this exaction, as neither vessel nor cargo had approached the quay. The "Resolven" therefore lies in the bay with the greater part of her cargo on board, and her master naturally protests, claiming demurrage at the rate of 5*l.* a-day.

I have therefore the honour to request that your Excellency will be good enough to send immediate instructions to the Imperial authorities at Smyrna to allow the "Resolven" to land her cargo forthwith without payment of quay dues, and to inform your Excellency that I shall hold the Imperial Government responsible for any losses to

the vessel caused by demurrage in consequence of this pretension on the part of the Smyrna Quay Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 63.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 55. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, July 9, 1880.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 14, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, I approve the note addressed by you to the Porte with regard to the pretension of the Customs authorities at Smyrna to exact quay dues from the British ship "Resolven."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 21. Commercial.) *Therapia, August 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

SIR H. LAYARD in his despatch, Commercial, No. 56, of the 4th May last, explained to your Lordship the position of the Smyrna Quay question, after the Turkish Government, on learning the determination of Her Majesty's Government not to surrender the free space until an understanding had been come to respecting the quay dues, had proceeded on the 1st May, without any notice, to close the 100 pies assured to British Commerce in 1868.

Ever since that high-handed step the vast majority of merchants at Smyrna have loudly complained of the gross injustice done to them, which amounts to nothing less than a violation of a formal and special international engagement entered into by the Porte, besides a breach of the stipulations of the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and Turkey of 1861.

Your Lordship is aware that the opposition on the part of the merchants is not one of principle since the quay doubtless offers advantages of which with the draining and paving improvements promised but not yet made by the Company, the town stands in great need. The opposition arose in consequence of the excessive dues which it is attempted to impose without regard to corresponding advantages.

These dues, since the closing of the free space, are rendered compulsory, and appear to be considered so excessive and unfair that, though levied with the understanding that in the event of subsequent modifications of the Tariff the money paid in excess shall be returned, it becomes a matter for serious consideration, seeing the daily increasing indebtedness to the merchants, that not a moment should be lost in settling the question, as the longer it is delayed the greater will become the disinclination of the responsible parties to accept Tariff modifications involving heavy repayments to the merchants.

With this probable contingency in view, and after repeated official communications to the Porte to which I received no reply, I have thought it expedient in conformity with a proposal made by Sir H. Layard and sanctioned by the Foreign Office, to instruct Mr. St. John to proceed to Smyrna, where he will meet the Delegates named by the Representatives of Austria, Italy, and the United States, who all have received the necessary authority from their respective Governments to support me in any action I might think proper to take in the matter.

After consulting the wishes of the merchants on the spot, this Mixed Committee will draw up its Report, and it will then be for the Powers interested to consider what measures should be taken to compel the Turkish Government either to restore the free space or oblige the Quay Company so to modify their pretensions not only as regards their Tariff of dues, but also regarding the territorial limits within which the dues shall be chargeable, as to satisfy the merchants, and avoid in the future such collisions with the Customs authorities as are described in the copy of the correspondence which I have the honour herewith to inclose.

By general agreement it has been decided to invite the Porte to take a part in the

Commission and name its Delegate for the purpose. I may add that when the Turkish Government, after suppressing the free space, decided to send Parnis Effendi, their legal adviser, to Smyrna, to enquire into the grievances of the merchants and report upon the question generally, I was asked to name some one to accompany him, and that I objected to do so unless a similar request was addressed to the countries that had also protested against the closure. Parnis Effendi stated that the Turkish Government would not agree to this, and while I was anxious to secure common action in the matter the Representative of the Porte seemed particularly desirous to avoid such common action. Eventually Parnis Effendi proceeded by himself to Smyrna, but I warned him in advance that an inquiry made by him could not be accepted. He returned with a Report, of which copies were privately distributed to some of the other Representatives of Foreign Powers. I declined to accept it unless forwarded to me officially, which the Porte declined to do.

I have been disinclined to show any conciliation in this matter as from the first, like my predecessor, I considered that the Porte had acted in an intolerable manner in closing the pies by an absolutely arbitrary act.

This great sympathy for the Quay Company on the part of the Turkish Government arises, I must explain, from the fact that by Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" of 1877 between the Porte and the Company, the latter releases the former from all liabilities incurred in consequence of the losses sustained by the Quay Company owing to the existence for years of a free space, and engages itself besides to pay to the Porte yearly, 12 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from quay dues if allowed to levy them, not only on goods passing over the quay, but on all those, whether imported or exported, throughout the whole extent of coast included in the customs district of the bay of Smyrna, which comprises about 30 miles of sea-board.

It was with a view to putting to the test this new pretension of the Quay Company in spite of existing railway rights to embark goods without passing them through the custom-house, that Messrs. Patterson and Co., with the consent of Mr. Consul Dennis, embarked the liquorice paste, and thus gave rise to the concluding portion of the inclosed correspondence, by which I was obliged to state, in my answer to the Porte's complaint on the subject, that I could not enter into this minor question till I received replies to my official communications on the more important and general one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to Savas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Pera, May 1, 1880.*

I HAVE just heard with extreme surprise that the 100 pies reserved by special agreement between the Porte and Her Majesty's Government in order to give to the commerce of Smyrna free access to the custom-house without payment of quay dues have been summarily closed by his Highness the Prime Minister. It is unnecessary for me to enter upon the merits of this case, which has so long been the subject of correspondence between this Embassy and the Sublime Porte. It is sufficient to state that no longer than a fortnight ago I obtained, as your Excellency is aware, the authorization of Her Majesty's Government to send Mr. St. John, the First Secretary of Her Majesty's Embassy, to Smyrna, with a Commissioner to be named by the Turkish Government, for the purpose of coming to an arrangement with respect to the Tariff to be levied upon merchandize making use of the quays, without which agreement Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to give up the incontestable right of the British commercial community to the use of the 100 pies in question without the payment of the quay dues.

Without any previous notice, whilst negotiations were in progress, and in violation of the rights of Her Majesty's Government, his Highness the Prime Minister has thought fit to deal with the question arbitrarily, and to close the 100 pies. I have not failed to acquaint Her Majesty's Government with this proceeding, which I cannot characterize otherwise than as a flagrant breach of faith, against which I hereby formally protest, holding the Sublime Porte responsible for the consequences.

Since writing the above, I have received your Excellency's note of this day's date, which will not, probably, alter the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Sawas Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 4 Juin, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

PAR la note que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à son Excellence Sir H. Layard le 1er Mai, j'avais porté à sa connaissance que la Sublime Porte ayant dû rétablir la Compagnie des Quais de Smyrne dans l'exercice de ses droits, avait, en même temps, décidé qu'une enquête serait faite pour rechercher si les plaintes qui ont été formulées contre le nouveau Tarif sont ou non fondées, et que dans le cas où, à la suite de cette enquête, il serait reconnu que les droits fixés au Tarif doivent être abaissés, les sommes perçues en trop seraient restituées au commerce par la Compagnie.

Pour faire suite à cette communication, je m'empresse de faire savoir à votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte a chargé de cette enquête Parnis Effendi, Conseil du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, qui a reçu mission de se rendre à Smyrne et de recueillir tant près de la Compagnie des Quais de Smyrne que des principaux commerçants indigènes et étrangers, toutes les informations propres à éclairer cette question.

Dès que cette enquête sera terminée, et que le Rapport de Parnis Effendi aura été déposé, la Sublime Porte délibérera sur la solution la plus équitable à donner à cette question en conciliant tous les intérêts.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Smyrna, June 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"*Therapia, June 5*, 1880.

"Action about to be taken here respecting the quay question. Ascertain and inform me by letter what steps are being taken to keep an account of dues paid under protest, and to insure the safe custody of these sums."

In reply, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that from the 1st May, the day on which the Quay Company forcibly closed the 100 pics of free space, and brought their new Tariff of dues into operation, I have made it known to all British merchants and others interested in the trade with Great Britain, that, on producing at this Consulate their receipts for the sums exacted as quay dues, they would be registered as claims against the Ottoman Government, satisfaction of which would be made to the holders whenever it might please Her Majesty's Government to insist on the repayment of these illegal exactions on British commerce, for which they had officially announced that they held the Porte responsible.

In registering these receipts, I take note of the date and number of the receipt, also of the date of its registration, the name of the merchant who holds it, the description of goods, the number of packages, &c., and the amount paid for quay dues; and I record on the receipt itself the fact of its registration.

I should give your Excellency to understand that, although certain of these sums exacted as quay dues have been paid under special protest, this is not the case with the majority of these payments, many of which are of small amount, in some instances, only of a few piastres. It was generally considered that the formal protests made by myself on the 1st March and 1st May last, seconded by Sir H. Layard, and backed up by Her Majesty's Government, would be sufficient to secure the rights of the merchants to repayment without a special protest being made in every instance.

As regards your Excellency's inquiry what steps are being taken to secure the safe custody of the sums paid as quay dues under protest, I can only reply that the Quay Company exact the sums in question in virtue of a right conceded to them by the Porte by Firman, and ignore all conflicting rights on the part of the merchants, so that the money naturally finds its way into the Company's coffers, whence it can only be extracted by some powerful pressure exerted on the Porte by Her Majesty's Government. There are no means of avoiding these exactions, for when merchandize is brought to the custom-house, and has paid the ordinary duties inwards or outwards, the Messrs. Dussaud step in and will not permit it to be removed until their demands under the new Tariff have also been satisfied.

I may be allowed to add that the British mercantile community here have heard with much pleasure that this long-pending question is likely to be speedily settled. They express, however, their earnest hope that it will be by securing to them an equivalent free space in front of the new custom-house, and not by a mere modification of the Tariff. But should it, nevertheless, be decided to be effected by this means, they at least trust that the revision will take place on the spot rather than at Constantinople, where their interests cannot possibly be so well understood or safeguarded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

Pera, June 16, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

IT was with extreme surprise that Her Majesty's Embassy on the 1st of last month learnt by a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna that the free space of 100 pics in front of the old custom-house had been closed by order of the late Prime Minister, in spite of the formal engagements to Her Majesty's Government entered into by the Sublime Porte, and notwithstanding the arrangement agreed upon between your Excellency's predecessor and my own, by which matters were to remain as they stood until a modification of the new quay Tariff on a fair and reasonable basis should be effected, after a formal inquiry on the spot had been made by two gentlemen who had already been designated and accepted for the purpose.

Sir H. Layard at once protested, by his note of the 1st May, against such a proceeding, and only on that same day received a formal notification from the Sublime Porte of the occurrences at Smyrna.

It is now my duty, while adding my own protest to that of Sir H. Layard, formally to call upon the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to restore without delay the free space thus arbitrarily closed. Should compliance with this demand be now rendered difficult, in consequence of the work of prolonging the quay having been already undertaken, and owing to the old custom-house having been demolished, I must then request that a free access to the new custom-house be at once secured to British commerce without any quay dues whatever being charged to it until the proposed inquiry has been made and a fair and equitable arrangement has been come to with regard to a modification of the Tariff of quay dues thus arbitrarily imposed upon British commerce at Smyrna.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Smyrna, June 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a correspondence between the Governor-General of this vilayet and myself relative to a proceeding which I took on myself to sanction on the 18th and 19th instant, in order to test whether the pretensions of the Smyrna Quay Company to impose their dues on merchandize brought from the interior by the Ottoman Railway were admitted by the Porte or not. My reply to the charge brought against this Consulate by the Governor-General sufficiently explains the proceeding. Its object, however, is entirely misrepresented by the Director of Customs, who endeavours to make it appear that the proceeding was an attempt to smuggle valuable goods on board ship under false pretences and to evade the payment of customs

duties; whereas it was a mere test as to the sanction given by the Porte to the claim advanced by the Quay Company under Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" to levy their dues on goods brought from or sent to the interior by the Ottoman Railway.

On the last occasion of my waiting on the Governor-General (5th June), referred to in my reply, his Highness, to evade a categorical answer to my inquiry if it were by his authority that the cargo of coals brought by the "Resolven" had been prevented from landing at Karatash because it had not paid quay dues, as I had the honour to report in my despatch of the 7th instant, made some allusion to the same question as regarded the Ottoman Railway Company. My Dragoman had no opportunity of translating this to me at the time, seeing that his Highness continued to speak for at least half an hour, wandering far away from the point in question. But I now learn that he then informed my Dragoman that he had received instructions from the Minister for Public Works not to allow any interference with the merchandize brought down by the said railway, unless the Quay Company should insist on imposing their dues, in which case he was to let them have their way.

I have now been informed by M. d'Alessio, the agent of the Railway Company at Constantinople, that so long since as the 11th or 12th of this month, the Vali received further instructions from the same Minister not to permit, under any circumstances, interference on the part of the Customs authorities with the rights and privileges of the said Railway Company. M. d'Alessio informs me he heard this fact from the Minister himself, who assured him that the question was now "perfectly settled." If this be the fact, the Vali is surely to blame in not immediately acting on his instructions, and in allowing questions to arise as to the payment of these dues after their exaction has been condemned as illegal by the Porte.

As large shipments of goods for the interior are to be made during the coming week, I have the honour to request your Excellency to be pleased to ascertain from the Minister of Public Works if instructions to the above effect have really been given to the Vali; and should he have omitted to act on them, to request that he be ordered by telegram to put them into immediate execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Ahmed Hamdi Pasha.

Smyrna, June 24, 1880.

Highness,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness' letter of the 21st, inclosing a complaint from the Director of Customs at this port against my Dragoman, Mr. Micriditz, for assisting in conveying 400 cases of liquorice paste, belonging to Messrs. McAndrews and Forbes, from the pier of the Ottoman Railway Company to a ship, before the customs duties thereon had been paid.

I must premise my reply by pointing out that many of the statements made by the Director of Customs are inconsistent with facts. It is not true, as your Highness will perceive from the statement I shall presently give of what actually did occur, that violence was employed or threatened, or intended, or that any attempt was made to evade the payment of the legal customs dues. If they were not paid before the goods left the pier, as usual, it was because the Director refused to receive them when offered to him in the ordinary way. It is acknowledged that an attempt was made to evade the exaction of dues by the Quay Company, which have again and again been denounced as illegal by this Consulate. So far from the lighter being carried off "violently and arbitrarily" from the railway pier, as the Director asserts, it was not removed until the Dragoman had obtained permission from Ibrahim Aga, the Customs officer there stationed, to that effect. Several other inaccurate statements I might point out in the letter of the Director; but his assertion that the lighter was laden with objects of great value, falsely declared to be liquorice paste, is a gratuitous and ridiculous imputation on respectable British merchants which he ought not to have made unless he were prepared to substantiate it.

Your Highness may remember that when, on the 5th June, I had the honour to wait on you at the konak, to inquire if it was by your authority, or by that of the Quay Company unsanctioned by you, that the coals brought by the English brig "Resolven" were not allowed to be landed at Karatash unless the novel demand of quay dues on

them was also satisfied, your Highness gave me no definite reply to my question, but assured me, as you had done on a previous occasion, that, in your opinion, the original Turkish of Article 5 of the "Second Acte Additionnel" had been incorrectly interpreted by M. Dussaud, and would not sanction the demand he made for quay dues from all vessels that entered the Bay of Smyrna, whether they made use of the quay or not. On this expression of your opinion, I requested your Highness to order the landing of the said cargo without the payment of quay dues. This, however, your Highness refused to do; but promised to telegraph instantly to the Porte for definite instructions, and to inform me on Monday, the 7th, whether the Quay Company was justified in claiming quay dues on goods which did not pass over their quay. From that day to this, however, your Highness has favoured me with no such information, and has left me in entire ignorance as to whether the Quay Company's pretension in this particular is supported by the Porte or not.

On the 18th instant I was informed by Messrs. Forbes' agent here that 400 cases of liquorice paste were lying on the Ottoman Railway pier ready for shipment, but that, on applying as usual to the Director of Customs to send an officer to weigh the goods and receive duties thereon, the Director refused to do so unless the quay dues were also paid. Mr. Forbes refused to comply with this monstrous claim of the Quay Company, which he had never hitherto paid, and applied to me. Being still in ignorance if the claim were really sanctioned by the Porte, relying also on your Highness' opinion as to its illegality, because founded on an erroneous interpretation, and knowing your Highness' authority to be paramount in Smyrna, I determined to put the question to a practical test, and accordingly sanctioned the proposal of Mr. Forbes' agent to ship the goods, after having in vain tendered payment of customs dues, and to convey them direct to the ship. I gave special instructions to my Dragoman to be very careful to offer no resistance to the authorized agents of the Government; should they oppose the departure of the lighter from the pier, to leave it there; or should they board the lighter on its passage to the ship, to allow them to do what they pleased with it. This command, so far as I can learn, has been strictly obeyed. On the first day, on which 100 cases only were conveyed on board, no obstacle whatever was raised by the Customs officials, and the goods were transferred, without opposition, to the ship. On the second day, when the remaining 300 cases were put into the lighter, my Dragoman inquired of Ibrahim Aga, in the presence of the Acting Director of the railway and others, if he had any objection to the goods leaving the pier. He said he had no objection, but asked if the intention was to convey them to the custom-house or to the ship, as on the previous day. On hearing it was to the ship, he replied that he must inform his superiors, and left the pier for that purpose. When the lighter approached the entrance to the port, the steam-tug was boarded by a boat, with some one sent by the Captain of the Port and several officers of Customs, who wanted to take the steamer to the custom-house. To this the Dragoman objected, saying, "You have nothing to do with the steamer. If you want to carry the goods to the custom-house, you can cut the tow-rope and take the lighter where you please." The officers, however, did not care to take possession of the lighter, though at full liberty to do so, and the steamer continued her course to the ship

Your Highness will learn from this statement that no resistance, as erroneously asserted, was offered to the authorities, that the goods were not removed from the railway pier until the customs duties had been tendered and refused, and you are already informed from my despatch of the 21st instant that after the shipment of the goods the said duties were again tendered at the custom-house and refused by the Director, and that the amount has therefore been deposited at this Consulate to be paid to that officer whenever he may demand it.

I must further inform your Highness that only one cavass was sent by me with the Dragoman, not to resist, but to enable him to be more easily recognized. Another cavass, I am told, was also in the lighter. I learn on inquiry that he belonged to the Railway Company. As to the British flag said to have been hoisted on the lighter, it was placed there without my knowledge. I hear it was a merchant flag. It certainly was not my Consular flag, and my Dragoman, knowing it was not hoisted with my knowledge or sanction, ought to have removed it immediately.

The Director of Customs denounces the proceedings just described as contrary to law and to Treaties. Had not your Highness been pleased to echo this view of it, I should hardly have considered this accusation worthy of an answer.

You must allow me, therefore, to state that, if there has been any infraction of law or of Treaties, I cannot admit that such infraction has been on the side of this Consulate. Your Highness will bear in mind the solemn protests which, by command, I made to you on the 1st March and 1st May last, in which the novel exaction of quay dues,

especially on such goods as did not pass over the quay, was denounced as a gross and arbitrary contravention of the Treaties still in force between Great Britain and the Porte, and of the guarantees given by the Grand Vizier, Fuad Pasha, to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, when the Concession was first granted for the formation of the quay, which protests have been energetically supported by the British Ambassador and the Secretary of State. On the other hand, Great Britain never having made any engagement to pay quay dues, the proceedings of Friday and Saturday last cannot possibly be stigmatized, as your Highness has been pleased to do, as infractions of any Treaty. As to the actual Ottoman law on the subject, I have therefore felt at liberty to adopt that practical method of enlightenment to which I had recourse on Friday and Saturday last. But as the Director of the Customs has misrepresented the matter so as to make your Highness believe that Mr. Forbes' agent was endeavouring to avoid the payment of legitimate customs duties, when he knows full well it was to evade the payment only of quay dues which Mr. Forbes had never paid hitherto, and which he and every other English merchant regard as a most arbitrary and illegal impost, I can gather nothing from your Highness' letter as to the correct interpretation of Article 5. I shall therefore feel obliged if you will inform me without delay, according to your promise, whether the Porte sanctions your Highness' interpretation of that Article or M. Dussaud's.

Again, the Director of the Customs has endeavoured to misrepresent these sudden déviations from the usual procedure in the shipment of goods from the railway pier as "established formalities of the Customs." Whereas the truth is that his refusal to receive customs duties on the pier, and his attempt to oblige all goods to be conveyed to the central custom-house, are manifest infractions of the Convention made in 1856 between His Imperial Ottoman Majesty and the Ottoman Railway Company; for by Article 5 of the Firman granted to that Company, the Customs authorities are bound to weigh goods on the pier or at the station, to obviate the necessity of the consignees being obliged to take them to the custom-house.

I have received information from Constantinople, from an authentic source, that Hassan Fehmi Effendi, Minister of Public Works, has already sent instructions to your Highness not to allow any interference whatever with the rights and privileges of the Ottoman Railway Company. I therefore trust that no question as to the payment of quay duties on merchandize landed at or shipped from the railway pier will in future arise between us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 64.

Ahmed Hamdi Pasha to Consul Dennis.

(Translation.)

Smyrna, June 21, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to transmit to you, herewith inclosed, copy of a letter sent to me by the Director of the Customs of Smyrna, by which he informs me of the improper means that Mr. Forbes has used in shipping his liquorice paste without regard to the Regulations of the Customs and Treaties; and he requests me in consequence to do what is needful.

By the perusal of the letter you will observe that in this case the points that merit attention are, according to the said letter, the assistance of the Dragoman and the cavasses of your Consulate to impede by force the execution of the Regulations of the Treaties respecting the custom-house; and the hoisting on the lighter of the flag of your Government, which is the official emblem of your Consulate.

I have no doubt that neither you, nor especially your Government, will approve of these facts, because, when official employés have to settle matters of difference between friendly Powers, instead of expressing regret for any illegal acts, do, on the contrary, associate themselves with the perpetrators of them, it may be thought that they are acting by official orders.

Mr. Forbes thinks that he has succeeded in doing what he did by the assistance of the Dragoman and others with him, but had the Customs officers likewise acted as they might have done, the result would have been very unpleasant for both parties.

As now it remains with you to repair the damage publicly done to the rights of the Ottoman Government by punishing those who dared thus to act, it therefore is left to you to thus punish those concerned.

(Signed) AHMED HAMDI.

Inclosure 8 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Ahmed Hamdi Pasha.

Smyrne, le 22 Juin, 1880.

Altesse,

LE 18 et le 19 du courant, Messrs. MacAndrews et Forbes, négociants établis en cette ville, ont embarqué, par l'échelle du Chemin de Fer d'Aïdin, 400 caisses pâtes de réglisse pour l'Angleterre. Ces messieurs m'informent qu'à deux reprises différentes, avant et après l'embarquement des marchandises sus-mentionnées, ayant offert de payer les droits de Douane usuels, l'Administration de la Douane a refusé de les recevoir, ils viennent donc de déposer à ce Consulat la somme de medjids 61$\frac{13}{15}$, le montant de ces droits sur les 400 caisses pâtes de réglisse.

Je m'empresse par conséquent de prier votre Altesse de vouloir bien faire part au Directeur de la Douane du dépôt de la somme déjà nommée et qui se trouve actuellement à sa disposition.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 9 in No. 64.

Report.

(Traduction.)

[Ceci est la copie du Rapport adressé par la Direction des Contributions Indirectes le $\frac{7}{19}$ Juin, 1880.]

L'EMPLOYÉ de Mr. Forbes, négociant, sujet Britannique, ayant chargé dans une mahonne 100 caisses de pâtes de réglisse à l'échelle de la pointe, a dit au préposé de la Douane en service à cet endroit que les susdits marchandises devaient aller à la Douane pour y être pesées et payer là les droits légaux. Quelques instants après le Directeur du Chemin de Fer d'Aïdin, accompagné du Drogman du Consulat d'Angleterre et de quelques autres personnes, ne reconnaissant en aucune manière les employés de la Douane et sans exécuter des formalités d'usage, ils ont arbitrairement conduit la mahonne tout droit auprès du bateau à vapeur Anglais.

L'employé de la Douane nous ayant prévenu de ce fait, j'ai immédiatement envoyé le gardien de marine, Ali, et le chef gardien de marine, Ibrahim, pour faire rebrousser chemin à la mahonne, mais déjà la marchandise avait été déchargée à bord du bâtiment Anglais.

Or, cette manière de pousser l'audace jusqu'à aller conduire la mahonne directement au bateau à vapeur avant de remplir les formalités d'usage de la Douane, sans en payer les droits, et arbitrairement, c'est non-seulement occasionner des pertes au Gouvernement mais aussi méconnaissant les lois établis; c'est donner un mauvais exemple aux autres négociants; et cela au détriment de l'ordre établi; car, désormais, chaque commerçant, afin de ne pas payer les droits de sa marchandise, pourra s'y opposer par la violence. Comme à chaque échelle il n'y a qu'un seul préposé de Douane, celui-ci en cas de contrainte serait impuissant à se défendre, ce qui fait pressentir la nécessité d'entretenir un détachement de troupes régulières pour sauvegarder les droits du Gouvernement. Aujourd'hui même, ayant été averti qu'une mahonne chargée d'objets précieux (déclarés comme pâtes de réglisse) et portant le Directeur et Drogman, et deux ou trois Cavasses du Consulat, et enfin portant pavillon Anglais, se dirigeait directement vers le bateau à vapeur, il a été procédé à sa poursuite par la barque de garde de la Douane assisté d'un officier du Capitaine du Port, qu'ils les ont sommés de retourner à la Douane, mais on leur a répondu qu'on ne reconnait ni Douane, [*sic*] et les objets ont été ainsi embarqués à bord du bateau, sur le rapport qu'on se trouvait dans l'impossibilité de déterminer la manière d'agir à l'égard de cette inconvenance. La Douane franque de la ville indique dans sa lettre d'aujourd'hui le remède qu'exige cet état de choses.

Hier, lorsque le second Drogman du Consulat d'Angleterre, Mieridits Effendi, et le mandataire du susdit Mr. Forbes, ainsi qu'un ou deux autres personnes se sont rendues auprès de moi pour me demander l'envoi à la dite localité d'un préposé et d'un cantardji de la Douane, attendu qu'on devait embarquer des pâtes de réglisse, j'ai dû leur exposer que la nouvelle Douane étant fondée sur un pied égal à la grandeur de la ville et du port de Smyrne et aux recettes douanières, et les procédés de la dite Douane se trouvaient conformes aux Traités Internationaux, et qu'enfin étant le seul centre des Contributions Indirectes, toutes les marchandises d'exportation et d'importation doivent y être portées pour y subir les formalités nécessaires conformément à la loi et aux Traités, ainsi que cela se fait chez toutes les autres nations, et que tout procédé contraire à ce qui précède est en opposition aux lois et Traités établis. Cependant, sans écouter les considérations précitées et sans se soumettre aux formalités requises par la Douane, les pâtes de réglisse en question ont été violemment et arbitrairement en pleine mahonne soustraite à la Douane. Comment peut-on qualifier la conduite des susdits négociants, Drogman, et autres? Il est avéré que la conduite de ces derniers est un mauvais exemple aux habitants et grands négociants d'une ville aussi importante et que cela, tout en étant incompatible aux lois et Traités existants, porte aussi atteinte aux revenues d'aussi grandes Douanes, qui rapportent tant de millions aux Trésors Impériaux, ce qui indubitablement donnera lieu bientôt à de pénibles difficultés. Ainsi que votre Altesse le sait, les faits en question ne peuvent point être approuvés, mais d'un autre côté, les choses ont été poussées à un point qu'on nous met dans la nécessité de rechercher les moyens de sauvegarder les revenus, ordres, et procédés de la Douane. En conséquence, je viens prier son Altesse, afin qu'elle daigne bien nous donner les instructions nécessaires à la manière d'agir envers ceux qui, sans soumettre leurs objets et marchandises aux formalités de la Douane, les conduiraient par la force aux bateaux.

Smyrne, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juin*, 1880.

Inclosure 10 in No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Abdûlne Pasha.

Therapia, June 30, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

ON the 17th instant I had the honour to address your Excellency with regard to an attempt by the Smyrna Quay Company to levy on dues goods at a place called Karatash.

I requested that immediate orders might be sent to the authorities of Smyrna to discountenance any such pretensions on the part of the Quay Company, and I stated that I should hold the Imperial Government responsible for any losses which might result therefrom to British subjects.

I now learn that his Excellency the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aïdin, who seemed to have doubts as to the legality of the attempted imposition, promised Her Majesty's Consul on the 5th instant immediately to telegraph to Constantinople for instructions how to act, and that, notwithstanding these steps, another and similar case had quite recently arisen in which the Quay Company, with the concurrence of the Custom-house authorities, attempted to levy quay dues at a place where there is no quay.

I request your Excellency to be good enough to inform me whether the course taken by the Imperial authorities at Smyrna is in accordance with the views and instructions of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 11 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Smyrna, June 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Parnis Effendi, one of the legal advisers of the Porte, arrived at Smyrna on the 19th instant. He called on me on the same day, and again twice before his return on Saturday to Constantinople. He stated

the object of his visit to be to gather information on the spot about the Quay question, in order to ascertain the best means of getting the Porte out of "the scrape" in which it had placed itself by granting two Concessions so conflicting in character as that made by Fuad Pasha in 1868 to the British Government, and that made to the Smyrna Quay Company. He declared that his visit was not official, as it would have been had he been accompanied by Mr. St. John, as was at first arranged. He expressed himself desirous of hearing the precise nature of the complaints urged against the Quay Company. I, therefore, stated succinctly the views entertained by the British merchants on the subject, but suggested that it would be better for him to hear what they had to say for themselves; and he subsequently had the opportunity of hearing their sentiments from their own mouths. He professed to be actuated entirely by a wish to arrive at the truth in the formation of his opinion, and therefore sought communication with the principal merchants of other nationalities, with the representatives of the Quay Company, and with the Consular Body. The result of his investigations, so far as he communicated to me, is precisely what might be expected from one in the pay of the Porte, seeking information to forward its interests. He displayed a strong bias in that direction, and appeared to sympathize far less with his fellow-subjects, the British merchants, than with the Quay Company.

The conclusion he professes to have arrived at, though it was probably a foregone conclusion, is that the people of Smyrna are very little opposed to the Quay Company, that the mercantile community in general are well contented to pay quay dues, although of opinion that the Tariff requires revision and reduction, that most of the Consuls are favourable to the Company, and that it is only the British merchants and a few others who display animosity on the subject, and will not be satisfied with a modification of the Tariff. Nevertheless, he thinks he perceives an easy solution of the question in promptly effecting that modification.

The view he takes of the question admits of an easy explanation. The strong feeling of opposition expressed by the British merchants is, in fact, shared by most merchants of other nationalities, and even by many of the natives, as was proved by the numerous signatures attached to the remonstrance sent to Sir H. Layard on the 1st April last, in reply to the accusation that their opposition was "factious." But the rayahs, it is obvious, cannot declare their sentiments freely and openly, and feel themselves obliged to express their willingness to accept a reduction of the Tariff as an equivalent to the loss of the 100 pics. But—"omnia Romæ cum pretio"—the truth is that M. Dussaud has scattered his largesses so widely throughout Smyrna as to have secured almost every one who was in a position to assist or oppose him, from the Governor-General and Director of Customs downwards to the local press, as his partizans.

Parnis Effendi himself can hardly have escaped exposure to these corrupt influences, but that he has succumbed to the temptation far be it from me to assert. That the Consuls, with few exceptions, have been bought by M. Dussaud to speak in his favour, is generally credited in Smyrna, although, of course, such matters do not readily admit of proof. But it is certain that he has found among them staunch supporters, and even employés, and the fact that not a few of their body express great consideration for the interests of the Quay Company, while displaying much apathy when their national commerce was threatened by its proceedings, gives a strong colour to the rumour.

Whatever opinion Parnis Effendi may have gathered from such sources, he heard a different tale from the British and American merchants.

I must not omit to mention, by the way, that I have throughout this affair received the most hearty and strenuous support from my American colleague. These gentlemen, in common with many others of the mercantile community, fully acknowledge the advantages of the quay as an improvement and embellishment to Smyrna, and as offering certain facilities to commerce, but strongly object to the Company seeking an extravagant return for their speculation at the expense of the commerce of the town. And naturally and justly are they most indignant at the treatment to which they have been subjected. Some months ago they would have gladly accepted a considerable reduction of the Tariff as a compensation for the surrender of the 100 pics, but now, after the *coup d'état* of the 1st May, when they were violently and surreptitiously robbed of the free space for their commerce, which they had enjoyed for many years, and were compelled by force to pay dues under the new Tariff for the advantage of the Quay Company—when they found their guaranteed rights ignored, their interests trampled under foot, their commerce constrained to swell M. Dussaud's coffers, themselves the victims of a conspiracy between the Porte and Quay Company to extort as much as possible from them, they feel so indignant at being thus ignominiously subjected to the caprice of the Quay Company, that they will now be content with nothing less than the restitution of a

free space for their commerce in front of the new custom-house. They are convinced that this is the most secure safeguard of their interests. They fear that a fresh outflow of backsheesh at Constantinople may at any time give birth to a new Tariff, or to some modification of that in force which might prove detrimental to their interests; and they see that if the question be that merely of the retention of a free space, it will be greatly simplified, and their interests thus rendered far more secure. Without the free space they consider they will run the risk of finding themselves entirely at the mercy of the Quay Company, as at the present moment.

These views are naturally not palatable to Parnis Effendi, and lest he should be led by his bias in the opposite direction to misrepresent them as the views of a few factious British merchants, as was done on the 26th March last to Sir H. Layard, I have ventured to trouble your Excellency with this despatch, which, for obvious reasons, I have marked Confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 12 in No. 64.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 19 Juillet, 1880.

IL résulte de deux rapports de Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Aïdin, que Messrs. Forbes et Cie., fabricants de jus de réglisse, ont expédié à Smyrne vers le milieu du mois dernier, et embarqué immédiatement à bord d'un paquebot Anglais, une grande quantité de leurs produits, sans avoir payé les droits de Douane ni accompli les formalités d'usage.

Cet acte s'est répété deux jours de suite, et dans des circonstances aggravantes, qui ne manqueront sans doute pas d'attirer l'attention de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique. Un employé de la maison Forbes et Cie. allait chercher, à leur arrivée à la gare, les caisses contenant les produits en question, et les changeait, à l'échelle de la pointe, sous la protection d'un Drogman et du Cavass du Consulat-Général d'Angleterre, dans des mahounes portant le pavillon Anglais.

Les préposés de la Douane qui se trouvaient là s'opposèrent dès le premier jour à cet embarquement; on leur fit croire d'abord que les embarcations se rendaient à la Douane avant de gagner le bateau; mais lorsque détrompés, ils voulurent insister davantage, on leur répondit nettement qu'on passerait outre sans aucun souci des règlements.

Son Altesse Hamdi Pacha adressa aussitôt un takrir au Consul-Général Anglais à Smyrne pour lui représenter la nécessité de faire réparer ce qui s'était passé, l'exemple que venait de donner une ancienne maison de commerce étant fait pour encourager les autres négociants à user du même procédé, et porter ainsi un grand préjudice au Gouvernement Impérial.

Il va sans dire que Messrs. Forbes et Cie., pour échapper aux formalités de la Douane et à celles réclamées par le service des quais, ne peuvent chercher à se prévaloir de l'arrangement survenu l'an dernier, au sujet de leur fabrication, sur la demande de l'Ambassade de sa Majesté Britannique. Ils ont, d'ailleurs, reconnu eux-mêmes l'irrégularité de leur conduite en cette circonstance, en offrant ensuite à la Douane de Smyrne le montant des taxes qu'ils auraient dû payer pour les marchandises en question. Mais la Douane a refusé de l'accepter, ne pouvant admettre la valeur qu'ils avaient fixée sans contrôle, et craignant d'ailleurs d'établir par-là un précédent injustifiable.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la prie de vouloir bien prescrire à son Consul-Général à Smyrne d'inviter, conformément aux démarches que Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général a faites auprès de lui, la maison Forbes et Cie. à s'entendre avec l'Administration des Douanes pour réparer le préjudice qu'elles lui a causé. Le Ministre Impérial s'en remet, du reste, aux sentiments d'équité de l'Ambassade Royale du soin d'ordonner la punition des Agents du Consulat qui ont favorisé l'acte dont il s'agit.

Inclosure 13 in No. 64.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, July 21, 1880.

HER Britannic Majesty's Embassy has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the *note verbale* of the 19th instant from the Sublime Porte, and in reply begs to state that the alleged circumstances of the act complained of in that note, regarding the shipment of liquorice at Smyrna by Messrs. Andrews and Forbes, are so at variance with fact as represented by Her Majesty's Consulate, that it is evident his Highness the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aïdin must have omitted, when reporting on the case, to furnish the Imperial Government with the explanation which he had received from Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Dennis. Otherwise, it would have been seen that the violence complained of was neither employed, threatened, nor intended, and that no attempt was made to evade the payment of the legal customs dues which, by the Convention made in 1856 between His Imperial Majesty, the then Sultan, and the Ottoman Railway Company (Article V), are leviable on the pier or at the railway station by the Customs-authorities, so as to obviate the necessity of the consignees being obliged to take them to the custom-house. Further, that if the dues were not paid before the goods left the pier, as usual, it was because the Director of Customs refused to receive payment when it was offered to him in the ordinary way.

Moreover, far from the lighter being carried off violently and arbitrarily from the railway pier, as the Customs Director asserts, it was not removed until the Dragoman had obtained permission from Ibrahim Aga, the Customs officer there stationed, to that effect. As regards the departure of the lighter from the pier to the steamer under a British flag, that is a point which is admitted by Mr. Dennis, Her Majesty's Consul; but he denies that it was the Consular flag, or that it was hoisted either with his knowledge or authority.

It is stated in the note under discussion that the offer of Messrs. Andrews and Forbes to pay the amount due for duty on the goods, after they were shipped, is a self-condemnatory acknowledgment of the irregularities which they had committed.

Her Majesty's Embassy begs to differ from this view. On the contrary, this offer on the part of Messrs. Andrews and Forbes is corroborative of their statement that, far from wishing to defraud the Imperial Customs of their just and legal dues, a thought which never entered into their mind, it was only after their reiterated offer to pay them and the persistent refusal of the Customs officials to receive payment that Messrs. Andrews and Forbes were left no other course than that which they took.

It is with considerable surprise that Her Majesty's Embassy observes in the note under reply an allusion, although a passing one, to an alleged attempt to evade in this instance some regulations of the Smyrna Quay Company. Against such an attempt, even by implication, to claim for that Company a right to impose quay dues where there are no quays, Her Majesty's Embassy feels it a duty to protest in the strongest possible manner. Such a pretension on the part of the Quay Company being in direct opposition to the formal engagement entered into by the Sublime Porte with Her Majesty's Government in 1868, when his late Highness Fuad Pasha, on the very day that the project for the construction of a port and quay at Smyrna was first sanctioned by the Imperial Government, addressed a note to Sir H. Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, in which, after referring to the great advantages and facilities that would accrue to commerce from the realization of the Smyrna quay scheme, he gave the Ambassador the assurance that British interests would in such case be thoroughly safeguarded in the following emphatic words:—

"Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités, il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que leur occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne.

"Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point obligatoire pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer comme aujourd'hui à la douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage."

And yet, in the face of this assurance, the Customs authorities at Smyrna persist in demanding payment of quay dues on goods which not only do not pass over the quay but have the right, specially secured to them by a Convention, of embarking from the pier of the Ottoman Railway without passing through the custom-house at all.

As regards the demand made in the note from the Sublime Porte that the British Consular officials at Smyrna should be punished for their behaviour, it will be apparent

to your Excellency, from the foregoing remarks, that they are not to be blamed. The whole incident is an illustration of the danger of the misunderstandings that have arisen and are certain to be repeated if the Sublime Porte persists in the course which called for the notes from Her Majesty's Embassy of the 16th and 17th June last, to which the Sublime Porte has not yet replied. The greatest inconvenience has resulted, and will result, from the delay, and the responsibility of future misunderstandings on this question will rest exclusively on the Turkish authorities.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 14 in No. 64.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Smyrna, July 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a letter addressed to me by the Committee of merchants and others who drew up the Report on the question of the quay of Smyrna, inclosed in the despatch which, on the 17th April last, I addressed to Sir H. Layard; in which letter they desire to call your Excellency's attention to the continued injury they are sustaining from the loss of the 100 pics, guaranteed to them for free access to the custom-house, and earnestly request your Excellency to make such representations to the Porte as will induce that Government to restore without further delay the privileges of which it most unjustly deprived them on the 1st May last.

I have the honour to recommend this letter to your Excellency's favourable consideration, for I fully concur in the opinion therein expressed, that the long immunity which the Ottoman authorities have been allowed to enjoy, as the consequence of the arbitrary and unjust measures adopted by them on the 1st May, is likely to prove highly detrimental to the interests of British commerce in Smyrna. Such immunity, while continuing to subject the merchants to the payment of heavy and illegal imposts, is also calculated, I fear, to encourage the local authorities to make fresh encroachments on the rights and privileges of British subjects, when they find that their acts of violence and infraction of Treaties do not meet with that prompt and effectual check which they must naturally anticipate as the results of such attempts. I venture, therefore, to pray your Excellency, when the important negotiations you have now in hand will permit, to insist on a speedy and satisfactory settlement of this question, which, the longer it is left in abeyance, will prove more difficult of solution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. DENNIS

Inclosure 15 in No. 64.

Messrs. Wilkin, Clarke, and others to Consul Dennis.

Smyrna, July 23, 1880.

Sir,

WE have the honour to inform you that the Société des Quais de Smyrne continue to levy quay dues on all goods landed or shipped at the Smyrna custom-house.

We therefore desire to bring the matter again to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and most respectfully, but earnestly, to solicit his Excellency to make such representations to the Turkish Government as his Excellency may think proper to induce them to give immediate orders to restore the 100 free pics in front of the custom-house, of which the commercial community here were deprived in so unwarrantable and unjustifiable a manner, in violation of existing Treaties, and in spite of the engagements and repeated assurances on the part of the Turkish Ministers that the 100 pics in question should always be left open to give free access to our custom-house.

We are fully aware of the very important and arduous political negotiations which now occupy the attention of Her Majesty's Representative, but we are convinced that an energetic remonstrance on the part of his Excellency will at once bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, which, if allowed to continue an open question, causes great

actual losses and involves principles which, in their future consequences, will be extremely prejudicial to commercial interests in this country.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. WILKIN.
A. O. CLARKE.
J. B. PATERSON.
H. W. WHITTALL.
ALEXANDER SIDI (acting for W. Colefo).
W. H. CADOUX.

Inclosure 16 in No. 64.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 17 *Août*, 1880.

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note verbale de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, en date du 21 Juillet, concernant l'incident survenu à Smyrne à l'occasion de l'exportation d'une certaine quantité de jus de réglisse appartenant à Messrs. Andrews and Forbes.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est heureux d'apprendre que M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Smyrne était complètement étranger au fait de pavillon hissé sur la mahonne pour empêcher l'action des autorités Douanières; mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que ce pavillon a été arboré, et que le Drogman et le Cavass du Consulat qui accompagnaient le convoi ont fait mettre la marchandise à bord d'un bateau Anglais, sans que les formalités Douanières aient été accomplies, et sans l'acquittement préalable des droits.

La gravité de ces faits n'exige pas de commentaires, et l'Ambassade Royale voudra bien reconnaître la nécessité d'en punir les auteurs. La Sublime Porte croit d'autant plus devoir y insister qu'elle ne trouve pas de raisons justifiant la conduite de ces employés.

Le service Douanier n'est pas encore organisé à l'échelle de la Compagnie des Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin, de façon à permettre que les marchandises du trafic de la Compagnie puissent en être exportées, sans passer par la Douane, conformément aux règlements existants. D'autre part, les marchandises seraient embarquées de cette échelle qu'elles ne seraient exemptés ni des droits de Douane ni des droits de quai.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères vient conséquemment réitérer à l'Ambassade la demande par sa note verbale du 19 Juillet.

Inclosure 17 in No. 64.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

M. le Ministre,

Therapia, August 18, 1880.

IT was in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty between Great Britain and Turkey, which stipulates that no further taxes shall be imposed on British commerce than those expressly named, that Fuad Pasha, then Grand Vizier, on the 1st April, 1868, the very day that the project for the construction of a port and quay at Smyrna was first sanctioned by the Imperial Government, addressed a note to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, in which, after referring to the great advantages and facilities that would accrue to commerce from the realization of this scheme, he gave the assurance that British interests would be safeguarded, in the following emphatic words:—

"Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que lui occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne.

"Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point d'obligation pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer et de débarquer, comme aujourd'hui, à la Douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage."

Notwithstanding the promise thus formally made, the Imperial Government, without previous notice, proceeded on the night of the 30th April and 1st May last to close a

free space of 100 pics, which had been secured by Her Majesty's Ambassador, and in which could fully participate, not alone British subjects, but those of all other nations, while the Customs authorities have insisted ever since that all goods on embarking or disembarking, whether passing over the quay or at any spot beyond it in the Bay, should pay quay dues arbitrarily fixed by the Imperial Government and the Quay Company.

Under these circumstances, I have addressed three successive notes to your Excellency, which, to my surprise, have remained without reply. I am now, therefore, instructed by Her Majesty's Government to take immediate steps to protect the commerce of Great Britain and Smyrna, and I intend for this purpose to name a Delegate, who, in conjunction with those named by the Representatives of other Powers interested, will proceed to Smyrna in order thoroughly to investigate the matter, and draw up a Report on the subject of the incessant complaints of the vast majority of the merchants concerned.

I beg to suggest to your Excellency that it might materially contribute to a speedy and satisfactory settlement of this very important question, if the Imperial Government would, on its side, also name a Delegate to share in the proposed investigation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 18 in No. 64.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, August 20, 1880.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the notes from the Sublime Porte of the 17th instant, and in reply it begs to state that as the question therein referred to is one intimately connected with that of the Smyrna Quay, respecting which no answers have yet been received by Her Majesty's Embassy to the numerous notes which it addressed to the Porte, Her Majesty's Embassy consider that to deal with this question at present would be premature.

Her Majesty's Embassy will confine itself to observing that the incident in question is one of the many inconveniences resulting from the arbitrary act of the Sublime Porte respecting the Smyrna Quay question, as to which this Embassy has made such serious complaints.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 50. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, September* 1, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government approve your action in the Smyrna Quay question, as reported in your despatch of the 20th ultimo, No. 21, Commercial.

No. 66.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 314.) *Constantinople, October* 16, 1880, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

SIR JOHN will go to Smyrna on Wednesday to proceed in the Smyrna business, as stated to the Porte in my note of the 18th August, of which copy was sent to your Lordship.

I think your Lordship will consider that it is advisable to push this matter now, and that there are reasons why Sir J. John's visit at this moment would be particularly opportune. I then propose to send Mr. St. John on to Samos with reference to your despatch No. 558, and with reference to some troublesome questions connected with the customs duties.

No. 67.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 39. Commercial.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch addressed to me by Mr. F. St. John relative to the Smyrna Quay question. I have gone into this matter very fully with Mr. St. John since his return, and am in communication with some of my colleagues on the question.

The results of Mr. St. John's inquiry entirely confirm the view that the imposition of the Tariff of the Quay Company is a gross abuse, and following, as it does, on the breach of faith committed by the Porte towards the Powers in abolishing the free space in front of the custom-house, it seems impossible for the Governments of the great commercial countries to endure this state of things. Mr. St. John calls attention to the danger of the precedent.

Two most important questions are involved. In the first place, is it to be tolerated that the Porte should, under cover of the construction of a quay, without any facilities whatever to shipping, be at liberty, either directly or indirectly, through a Concession to a Company, to levy duties in excess of what is reasonable, and in effect constituting an evasion of Treaty engagements as to the levying of customs duties; and secondly, can the Porte be permitted to break such engagements as that securing the 100 pic free space with impunity?

The Quay Company have attempted, not without some success, to divide the Powers by giving special facilities in some case. I have just learnt from the Austrian Embassy that they have thus settled with the Austrian Lloyd's, and thus secured the withdrawal of their opposition. Austria is now less interested, but I have pointed out the very serious danger of the principle being admitted.

I inclose a note from the Porte just received. It is too late to accept the suggestion it contains. It is now for Her Majesty's Government to determine to what extent it is prepared to go in pushing our undeniable right. Further remonstrances would be futile.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

Mr. St. John to Mr. Goschen.

Pera, November 28, 1880.

Sir,

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions, I proceeded to Smyrna with a view to obtaining such information respecting the pending Quay question there as might enable you more clearly to understand some points in this complicated case that have not been thoroughly elucidated in the voluminous correspondence on the subject.

My visit to the spot, and the many interviews I have had with the various Consuls and merchants of all nationalities representing the foreign commerce, have convinced me that there is good ground, in the interest of all engaged in a trade of the yearly value of 9,000,000*l.*, of which more than half is British, for putting an end to the existing state of things with the greatest possible speed.

Your Excellency is aware that on the 1st May last the free space solemnly assured to commerce was arbitrarily and abruptly closed. At the same time the old custom-house in front of this free space was also closed and the new one which stands on the south side of the harbour opened, while a new Tariff, kept a secret for over a year between the Turkish Government and the Quay Company, was enforced, but, as is alleged, never published or confirmed by Imperial Firman as the previously existing one had been.

Your Excellency is also aware of the exorbitant scale of charges contained in the first Tariff and of the increase by nearly 100 per cent. in the second, which is nearly double as high as that of the docks of Liverpool, while at Smyrna there are absolutely no docks in the proper sense of the term. The quay is a simple embankment, faced and paved with stone, and constituting a fashionable promenade about a mile in length, with a closed harbour near the south end, in which the vessels, when loading or unloading, are compelled from want of space to lay stern on quay, thus necessitating the use of lighters

as of old, which are paid for by the ship or the merchant, as the case may be. As to wharves or warehouses or appliances for loading or unloading, they do not exist, unless the custom-house buildings are considered as coming under such denomination.

During the fortnight which I spent at an hotel nearly facing the harbour, all the English steamers I saw remained at anchor in the roads, and yet the goods were charged quay dues on a scale which, as can be proved, amounted in some instances to 6 per cent. on cost. Out of about 300 articles of commerce, only about 100 are mentioned in the Tariff, while about 200 are unenumerated and charged quay dues quite arbitrarily by the Company. But even enumerated ones are charged far in excess of the Tariff, as I can also prove by receipts in my possession.

Although many of the foreign Consuls at Smyrna appear by their silence to sanction this state of things, I found that the merchants of all nationalities, without exception, view it as a monstrous imposition, which can only be stopped by giving free access to the custom-house from outside the harbour, and thus compelling the Quay Company so to modify their Tariff as to induce goods to avail themselves of such advantages as the inclosed harbour may offer.

Midhat Pasha, on whom I called several times while I was at Smyrna, admitted to me frankly that the Company's charges were preposterous, and his Highness mentioned having been made to pay 5 fr. for a small box of clothes for his children. To his proposal that I should invite the merchants to meet and draw up a counter-Tariff, the latter, after some days' consideration, replied that his Highness' suggestion was, in consequence of the many conflicting interests, impracticable, and would only lead to great waste of time and no result; that any such scheme as a modified Tariff must be elaborated by the Company on a fixed and reasonable basis; and I was requested to submit to his Highness their letter to Mr. Consul Dennis of the 29th March last, which, for greater convenience, I caused to be translated into French, with all the signatures appended, in proof of the fact of the unanimity of feeling among the merchants of all nationalities that free access to the custom-house should be restored before any proposition of a modified Tariff can be entertained.

I may mention that the strong opposition evinced by the Turkish Government is giving way on this point, and their desire of maintaining the principle of forced payment of quay dues at Smyrna would seem to be connected with a scheme conceived, it is said, by the present Prime Minister when last in office, of extending the imposition throughout the Turkish coast, where a few blocks of stone thrown into the sea might serve as a pretext for a quay or breakwater, and an excuse for what practically would amount to raising the import and export duties beyond the Treaty Tariff.

The free access to the custom-house demanded now in lieu of the former free space does not appear to me to offer such additional facilities to commerce as to warrant refusal on the ground that gratuitous advantages would thus be given by the Company to the merchants.

I beg to inclose herewith an Annex containing some instances brought to my notice when at Smyrna of the excessive charges that have been imposed, as they prove clearly that no organized system is pursued, and that each particular case is dealt with according to his whim by the representative of the Quay Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Memorandum.

AMONG the many instances of excessive quay charges at Smyrna the following have been brought more particularly to my notice:—

1. Iron landed for immediate re-exportation to Mitylene, for which full quay dues inwards and outwards were charged on the 26th October, 1880, being equal to 3 per cent. on value, instead of 10 paras (¾*d.*) in full per quintal (200 lbs.), being half quay dues, as per Article 6 in Tariff of "Second Acte Additionnel."

2. Two bales containing empty sacks, and destined for Constantinople, were by mistake landed from steam-ship "Cyrenian," and were on re-exportation charged 3 medjids (about 10*s.*).

3. Three cases, containing each six iron bedsteads from England, and costing 20*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, had to pay 6 piastres each on landing. The import duty on the three cases was 176 piastres, and the quay dues asked were 126 piastres, or 6 per cent. on cost.

4. A Spanish merchant at Smyrna has stated in writing that the average amount of cotton which he exported to Barcelona was 10,000 bales, and that, although the place where the bales were pressed is opposite the new harbour, and might have been conveyed to the quay at the expense of the press owners, the distance being only a few yards, he found it more economical to send them on camel-back to the free space opposite the old custom-house, from whence they were taken in lighters (the south side of the harbour not being then open) round the harbour, and in at the north entrance to the ship in harbour.

His calculations were as follows:—

	Per bale. Prs. p.
Carriage, by camels	0 24¼
Carriage, by lighters	0 60
	00 84¼
Quay dues	120 00
Use of lighters, in consequence of ship not laying broadside on	60 00
	180 00

But, by the new Tariff, 60 paras per quintal are charged, equal to 435/10 piastres per bale of 3½ quintals. So that, on 10,000 bales, the quay dues would be 48,750 piastres, from which, if the former camel hire of 6,062·50 piastres is deducted, shows an excess of quay charges over the old system of 42,687·50 piastres, or nearly 400*l.* yearly. The export of cotton from Smyrna to Barcelona has in consequence ceased.

Inclosure 3 in No. 67.

Letter addressed to Consul Dennis by Merchants at Smyrna of all Nationalities.

(Traduction.)

Smyrne, le 29 Mars, 1880.

M. le Consul,

LES Soussignés ont l'honneur d'accuser communication d'une dépêche que vous a adressée l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople portant la date du 26 courant. Son Excellence dit avoir été informée que l'opposition à l'achèvement des quais ne provient que de quelques négociants Anglais et que le reste du corps commercial de Smyrne est prêt à accepter le Tarif de MM. Dussaud. Son Excellence ajoute qu'il ne peut certainement sanctionner aucune opposition déraisonnable ou factieuse d'où il pourrait résulter pour la Sublime Porte des pertes sérieuses, conséquence de la suspension des travaux de MM. Dussaud, contre laquelle ces messieurs ont formellement protesté en en rendant la Sublime Porte responsable.

Les Soussignés ne sauraient trop fortement exprimer leurs sentiments de surprise en lisant cette dépêche. Le ton de l'Assemblée qui a eu lieu au Consulat d'Angleterre Jeudi dernier, à laquelle assistaient non-seulement des négociants Anglais, mais beaucoup de négociants étrangers faisant le commerce avec l'Angleterre, est une preuve convaincante que l'information donnée à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté est tout à fait contraire à la vérité. Les Soussignés n'hésitent pas à déclarer que la grande majorité du corps commercial de Smyrne est tout à fait opposée à la dernière concession faite par la Sublime Porte à la Société des Quais de Smyrne, et nous nous hasardons même à dire que si ce n'était la crainte d'aller à l'encontre des vœux des autorités Ottomanes ou autres autorités à Smyrne, lesquelles sont bien connues comme étant en sa faveur, tout le corps commercial serait opposé à ce Second Acte Additionnel, puisque, indépendamment du Tarif exorbitant qu'il sanctionne, il y a d'autres privilèges cédés à la Compagnie qui sont monstrueux, et qui ne seraient jamais acceptés sous aucune condition. Tel est le privilège d'exiger des droits de quais sur des marchandises débarquées ou embarquées sur tout point placé sous la juridiction de la Douane de Smyrne, en deux mots, dans toute la rade de Smyrne, que ces marchandises passent ou non par les quais.

MM. Dussaud, dans une lettre adressée par eux à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople, et datée du 21 Avril, 1876, ont offert une réduction d'environ 30 pour cent sur le premier Tarif publié par la Société des Quais, et quand un Comité a été nommé ici pour examiner le Tarif proposé, il a trouvé qu'au lieu de la réduction promise de 30 pour cent, la réduction n'était que de 1 pour cent sur le premier Tarif.

Le Comité a alors fait mention des conditions au moyen desquelles il pourrait recommander une rétrocession des 100 pics libres devant la Douane, lesquels avaient été cédés par la Porte au corps commercial de Smyrne sur les représentations de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté, qui demandait comme droit d'après les Traités existants qu'il y eut un passage libre pour entrer dans la douane et en sortir. L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté à Constantinople à la date du 18 Avril, 1877, énumère comme suit les conditions auxquelles le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté pourrait consentir à la rétrocession des 100 pics libres:

1. Que le Tarif actuel des droits de quais soit réduit de manière à satisfaire toutes les parties intéressées.

2. Que le Tarif ainsi réduit soit maintenu pendant toute la durée de la Convention.

3. Que la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne pas augmenter les droits de quais après l'expiration de la Concession sans avoir préalablement rendu la Douane libre des droits de quais.

4. Que la Compagnie s'engage à faire disparaître du nouveau dock l'odeur qui souvent empêche les bâtiments étrangers d'y entrer, et de trouver les moyens nécessaires pour que les bâtiments puissent débarquer leurs cargaisons bord à quai.

5. Que la Compagnie s'engage à repaver les rues et à améliorer le présent système d'égouts ainsi que tous les autres embellissements qu'elle a offert d'exécuter.

Aucune de ces conditions n'a été remplie, à l'exception de la disparition partielle des odeurs infectes des docks par un libre passage de la mer. Au contraire, la Société des Quais a usé de son influence à Constantinople pour obtenir une nouvelle Concession, datée du 9 Mai, 1878, qui n'a été connu du public de Smyrne qu'au commencement de ce mois, ou à la fin du mois passé. Cette nouvelle Concession, intitulée "Second Acte Additionnel," non-seulement accorde les privilèges sus-mentionnés, mais sanctionne un nouveau Tarif qui est actuellement beaucoup plus élevé que celui sur lequel MM. Dussaud ont proposé de faire une réduction de 30 pour cent, d'après leur lettre à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté du mois d'Avril 1877.

Aussitôt que le corps commercial Anglais ici a pris connaissance de cette dernière Concession, il s'est adressé à vous, M. le Consul, en vous priant de représenter à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la grande importance d'insister à ce que 100 pics devant la Douane soient maintenus libres de droits de quais.

Ceci, Monsieur, est un simple récit des faits qui se sont passés, et les Soussignés ne sauraient trop censurer les tentatives de ceux qui dénaturent ces faits aux yeux de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté, ayant en vue de faire croire à son Excellence que l'opposition du corps commercial est factieuse et n'a pas raison d'être.

La Compagnie des Quais, pendant qu'elle négociait pour sa dernière Concession, savait parfaitement que les conditions et les choses qu'elle cherchait à obtenir étaient directement opposés aux intérêts du corps commercial de Smyrne, et le Gouvernement Turc savait aussi qu'en accordant cette Concession il agissait contrairement aux engagements qu'il avait pris avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Dans ces circonstances, les Soussignés sont convaincus que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté sera d'avis que ni le Gouvernement Turc ni la Compagnie des Quais ne méritent aucun égard de la part de son Excellence.

Comme nous soutenons que les 100 pics libres forment un privilège inséparable de la Douane, et que ce droit en faveur du public fait partie intégrante de cet établissement, partout où elle est placée dans les limites du port, il n'y a donc pas nécessité de suspendre les travaux entrepris par la Compagnie, car toutes les difficultés, il nous semble, peuvent être aplanies, si le Gouvernement Impérial consent à ce que le privilège du quai libre soit transféré de l'ancienne à la nouvelle douane qui vient d'être construite.

Les Soussignés sont prêts à admettre que les quais ont beaucoup embelli la partie de la ville au bord de la mer, mais ils furent entrepris au grand détriment de beaucoup d'intérêts privés, comme grande spéculation en terrain, et les prix énormes obtenus pour les terrains par la Compagnie des Quais, et les droits qu'ils perçoivent déjà devraient offrir une pleine rémunération pour le capital versé, sans dépouiller le corps commercial de leurs droits donnés par Traité, de libre accès à la douane.

Si la Société des Quais offrait les facilités nécessaires pour embarquer et débarquer dans leurs docks à des taux raisonnables, les négociants sans nul doute, de leur propre gré, se prévaudraient de telles facilités, et la Société des Quais pourrait ainsi augmenter ses revenus par des moyens légitimes, au lieu de cette mesure arbitraire qu'ils veulent imposer, en fermant toute libre entrée à la Douane, et ainsi plaçant tout le commerce de Smyrne à leur merci.

D'après les données les plus correctes, les exportations et importations du port de Smyrne montent à une somme d'à peu près 9,000,000*l.* sterling, et au moins la moitié de ce commerce est directement ou indirectement avec le Royaume-Uni, de sorte que les intérêts Britanniques engagés dans cette question sont égaux à ceux de tous les autres pays mis ensemble.

Le Comité nommé à l'assemblée de Jeudi dernier à votre Consulat prépare un Rapport détaillé sur le nouveau Tarif, ainsi que sur d'autres points de la dernière Concession de la Société des Quais.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(107 Signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 67.

SOCIÉTÉ DES QUAIS DE SMYRNE.

Convention et Cahier des Charges. Premier et Second Actes Additionnels.

[See Inclosures in No. 28.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 67.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

(Circulaire.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 23 Novembre*, 1880.

DU jour où des plaintes se sont élevées de la part du commerce étranger à propos des quais à Smyrne, le Gouvernement Impérial a voué son attention à cette question. Un fonctionnaire spécial a été chargé d'aller effectuer une enquête sur les lieux.

Aujourd'hui, afin de compléter l'examen de l'affaire, la Sublime Porte vient d'instituer au Ministère des Travaux Publics une Commission *ad hoc*. Le Gouvernement Impérial se réserve de prendre une décision aussitôt que cette Commission aura achevé ses travaux.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 68.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 7*, 1881.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 39, Commercial, of the 1st ultimo, which is herewith inclosed for convenience of reference,* I have to request that you will favour me with your suggestions as to the course which should now be taken by Her Majesty's Government in regard to the question of the Smyrna quays.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 69.

Captain Hozier to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(*Received January 29.*)

Sir, *Lloyd's, E.C., January 28*, 1881.

I AM directed by the Committee of Lloyd's to inform you that it has been represented to them that goods discharged at Smyrna are at present often neglected and exposed and already-existing damage augmented by the fact that the steamers are discharged in the open bay instead of in the inclosed new port of the custom-house, where there is said to be great protection from the weather, and where it might be practicable to exercise control over the discharge of the cargo, which is not possible when the steamers discharge in the open bay.

* No. 67.

I am to beg that you will be good enough to move Earl Granville, in case his Lordship should see his way to such a course being taken, to allow the British Consular authorities at Smyrna to be requested to facilitate, by such means as lie in their power, the discharge of steamers in the new custom-house port rather than in the open bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. HOZIER, *Secretary.*

No. 70.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, February 7, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE had under my consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 39, Commercial, of the 1st December last, containing a Report by Mr. St. John upon the Smyrna Quays question.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that, under the circumstances of the case the only course for your Excellency to pursue is to call upon the Porte to restore the 100 pics of land in front of the custom-house which were guaranteed when the Concession for the construction of the port and quay at Smyrna was granted to Messrs. Dussaud in 1868. Your Excellency will therefore decline to listen to any further proposals for inquiry into the matter which may be made by the Porte, but will at once demand the restitution of the free space which is required to secure proper liberty for commercial operations at Smyrna; and you will state that, should your Excellency's demand not be complied with, Her Majesty's Government will be forced to consider by what steps English merchants can be protected against such a breach of the engagements entered into by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Consul Dennis.

(No. 1. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, February 7, 1881.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Committee of Lloyd's on the subject of the damage and inconvenience occasioned by the present system of landing goods at the port of Smyrna; and I am to instruct you to furnish his Lordship with any observations which you may have to offer thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 72.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Captain Hozier.

Foreign Office, February 7, 1881.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo relative to the damage and inconvenience caused by the present system of landing goods at Smyrna; and I am to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Consul at that port has been instructed to furnish his Lordship with any observations he may have to offer on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 73.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 1. Commercial.)
Smyrna, January 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of the Report made by Parnis Effendi on the question of the Smyrna Quay, for which object he was last summer commissioned by the Porte to visit this town. I have the honour at the same time to submit to your Lordship copy of the very able and lucid reply to that document drawn up by the Committee of merchants of Smyrna, in which they expose the one-sided character of M. Parnis' Report and the fallacies it contains, and in which they urge the restitution of the 100 pics of free shore of which they were suddenly deprived by the arbitrary act of the Quay Company on the 1st May last; or, in lieu thereof, that free access to the custom-house for their goods, which is everywhere else enjoyed, as the only means by which they can be secured in the rights guaranteed to them by Treaties and confirmed by subsequent engagements entered into by the Porte with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Report by Parnis Effendi on the Smyrna Quay Question.

LE Soussigné a reçu de la Sublime Porte la mission de se rendre à Smyrne, d'y faire une enquête sur les plaintes et les griefs du commerce au sujet de la perception des droits de quais, et de rechercher les mesures propres à donner satisfaction aux vœux légitimes du public.

Le Soussigné rend compte, ainsi qu'il suit, de l'accomplissement de sa mission:

Son premier soin, après s'être présenté à son Altesse le Vali, a été de se mettre successivement en rapport avec l'Administration des Douanes, les Consulats étrangers, la Société des Quais de Smyrne, et enfin les principaux commerçants de toute nationalité.

Cette enquête, accomplie avec le plus grand soin, a fourni au Soussigné des éléments d'information suffisante pour lui permettre d'établir nettement le caractère et la portée des réclamations du commerce de Smyrne, d'en apprécier le bien ou le mal fondé, et d'apercevoir les moyens de mettre fin aux difficultés présentes, en conciliant les intérêts du commerce avec ceux de l'Etat et de la Société des Quais.

2. L'opposition faite à la perception des droits de quais, conformément au dernier Firman obtenu par la Société, est à peu près générale, en ce sens que la plupart des commerçants élèvent des objections contre le mode d'exécution de ce Firman. Mais cette opposition n'est point uniforme, les uns demandant le rétablissement pur et simple de l'espace des 100 archines, sur lequel les marchandises pouvaient être embarquées et débarquées en franchise des droits de quais, les autres se bornant à exprimer le vœu que certains articles du Tarif soient révisés et qu'il soit apporté quelques modifications à l'exercice des droits de la Société des Quais.

Les commerçants qui réclament le rétablissement des 100 archines ne représentent qu'une infime minorité, et il est de plus à noter que ces opposants paraissent dirigés par quelques personnalités, sans aucun doute fort honorables, mais qui sont étrangères au commerce.

La grande majorité du commerce de Smyrne approuve la suppression des 100 archines, parce cette mesure a eu pour effet d'établir l'égalité entre tous les commerçants, attendu que quelques commerçants seulement, dont les magasins étaient proches de l'espace libre, pouvaient profiter de cette franchise, tandis que la grande majorité des commerçants aurait dû, pour bénéficier de cette exemption, supporter des frais de transport trop considérables et une grande perte de temps.

Il est à regretter que lors de la dernière convention avec MM. Dussaud, par laquelle la suppression des 100 archines a été stipulée, le Gouvernement Impérial n'ait pas consulté toutes les Missions Etrangères, en même temps qu'il consultait l'Ambassade d'Angleterre; il est également à regretter que le Tarif des droits de quais, annexé à cette Convention, n'ait pas été communiqué, en temps utile, aux Missions Etrangères

qui auraient fait leurs observations avant que MM. Dussaud n'eussent entrepris les travaux additionnels, en considération desquels ils avaient obtenu la suppression de l'espace libre. Mais, en admettant même que le rétablissement de cet espace libre pût encore avoir lieu, la Sublime Porte ne pourrait l'autoriser, aujourd'hui, sans s'exposer à payer à MM. Dussaud des indemnités dont la charge serait très lourde pour le Trésor et qu'il serait injuste de lui faire supporter ; car, la grande majorité du commerce de Smyrne est contraire au maintien des 100 archines, et les quelques personnes qui y sont favorables ne le demandent pas comme une nécessité ou un avantage pour le commerce, mais uniquement comme une garantie (comme une soupape de sûreté, disent-elles) contre l'arbitraire dans l'avenir, garantie à laquelle il est facile de pourvoir sans imposer des sacrifices au Trésor.

Le Soussigné ne saurait donc appuyer la demande pour le rétablissement d'un espace libre.

Au contraire, les plaintes et les observations de la grande majorité du commerce de Smyrne ont paru au Soussigné, sinon fondées dans toutes leurs parties, du moins dignes d'être prises en considération. Sa tâche a dès lors consisté à examiner chacun des griefs soulevés par la généralité du commerce de Smyrne, et à rechercher les solutions que ces griefs pouvaient légitimement comporter.

3. Le Tarif actuel, consacré par le Deuxième Acte Additionnel de la Concession des Quais de Smyrne, a été arrêté par le Conseil d'Etat et sanctionné par Iradé Impérial, après examen par M. Stefanovich et d'autres à Constantinople, et par des commerçants notables appartenant à diverses nationalités à Smyrne. Il soulève deux objections :

La première consiste à dire que l'ensemble du Tarif est trop élevé et qu'il ne présente pas un abaissement de droits tel qu'il avait été promis.

La seconde objection consiste à se plaindre du mode de répartition des droits de quais entre les diverses espèces de marchandises dont quelques-unes, suivant les réclamants, sont soumises au paiement d'un droit beaucoup trop élevé en raison surtout de leur pauvreté.

Le Soussigné, sur la première objection a constaté que le nouveau Tarif présentait dans son ensemble un abaissement de taxes sur l'ancien Tarif d'environ 18 pour cent.

Pour arriver à ce résultat, le Soussigné a appliqué successivement l'un et l'autre Tarif aux marchandises embarquées et débarquées à Smyrne, durant l'Exercice 1878-79. Il a obtenu ainsi deux chiffres qui diffèrencient l'un de l'autre de 18 pour cent environ, c'est-à-dire que si la perception des droits de quais avait eu lieu en réalité sur toutes les marchandises importées et exportées, durant les douze mois indiqués plus haut, l'application du nouveau Tarif aurait avantagé le commerce d'environ 18 pour cent.

Le grief du commerce de Smyrne à cet égard est donc, sinon sans fondement, du moins exagéré.

La seconde objection est assurément beaucoup plus sérieuse, car il résulte de toutes les informations minutieusement recueillies, que certaines marchandises sont soumises à une taxe sensiblement trop élevée par rapport à leur petite valeur et qu'il serait, dès lors, de toute justice, que ces taxes subissent une réduction raisonnable.

Le Soussigné, tenant compte, d'une part, de la nécessité de réduire la taxe sur un certain nombre de marchandises pauvres, et d'autre part, de l'opportunité de donner toute satisfaction aux vœux des commerçants, de façon à faire cesser tout motif d'opposition, s'inspirant d'ailleurs du caractère conciliant de la mission qui lui a été confiée, exprime en toute conscience l'avis que l'ensemble du Tarif actuel devrait subir une réduction de 12 pour cent, dont le profit, au lieu d'être réparti sur la totalité des articles portés au Tarif, serait attribué seulement à un certain nombre de marchandises qui sont actuellement le plus lourdement taxées par rapport à leur valeur.

Le Soussigné, si cette réduction est admise par le Gouvernement Impérial, proposerait d'en confier la répartition aux intéressés eux-mêmes, c'est-à-dire, à une Commission instituée à Smyrne par le Vali et sous sa présidence, et composée des délégués du commerce de Smyrne désignés par les Consuls ou, à leur défaut, par le Vali lui-même.

Les pouvoirs de cette Commission seraient limités à la désignation des articles qui doivent bénéficier de la réduction et la fixation de la réduction pour chacun de ces articles, de façon à ce que la réduction totale n'excède pas 12 pour cent du produit brut de la perception des droits de quais sur toutes les marchandises importées ou exportées.

Le Soussigné, sans vouloir préjuger la question de savoir si cette réduction de

12 pour cent pourrait être en tout ou en partie à la charge de la Société des Quais de Smyrne, est en devoir de déclarer, conformément aux avis donnés précédemment par son collègue et lui, que la Société ayant rempli et au delà tous ses engagements envers le Gouvernement Impérial et étant en possession d'un Tarif fixé par le Conseil d'Etat, approuvé par le Conseil des Ministres, et sanctionné par Iradé Impérial, est en droit de refuser tout amoindrissement des droits qui lui ont été conférés. Cette situation laisse à la charge du Gouvernement Impérial la réduction des 12 pour cent, proposée plus haut, mais le Soussigné se hâte de faire observer que cette obligation ne constitue point une charge pour le Trésor, puisque la Société devait payer 12 pour cent de ses recettes brutes à l'Etat, qui paraît d'ailleurs en avoir fait l'abandon à la ville de Smyrne.

Au surplus, il ne faut pas perdre de vue qu'en s'attribuant 12 pour cent du produit brut des droits de quais, le Gouvernement Impérial se trouvait placé dans une situation difficile en présence de cette règle toujours et justement invoquée, vis-à-vis des Missions étrangères, que les taxes de cette nature doivent être strictement limitées à la rémunération et à l'amortissement du capital engagé.

Indépendamment de la réduction générale de 12 pour cent à répartir comme il est dit plus haut, le Soussigné propose d'admettre en franchise de tout droit de quais, les graines de coton, l'émeri, et les racines de réglisse brutes, dont la faible valeur appelle une exception complète.

Pour assurer à la ville de Smyrne, dans une plus large mesure, le ravitaillement du charbon par les bateaux à vapeur, il conviendrait aussi que le droit de quais sur la houille n'excédât pas 2 piastres par tonne à l'entrée, et 20 paras à la sortie.

Il est à espérer que la Société des Quais de Smyrne admettra sans difficulté l'exemption et la réduction susmentionnées. Dans le cas contraire, il faudrait encore les lui imposer en lui cherchant quelque compensation qui ne fût pas une charge pour le Trésor.

Le Tarif porte que les articles non-spécifiés seront taxés sur les mêmes bases, en tenant compte de leur volume, de leur poids, et de leur valeur. Il faudrait ajouter que le droit ne devrait, dans aucun cas, excéder ½ pour cent de la valeur.

Le Soussigné a relevé que le commerce de Smyrne tout entier demande que la Société des Quais fournisse aux navires, qui n'abordent pas les quais par le flanc, le matériel nécessaire pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises le long du bord. Cette demande est incontestablement justifiée, et la Société doit y pourvoir ; mais il est bien entendu que c'est au commerçant qu'il appartient de transporter ses marchandises sur les quais, ou sur les chattes ou pontons flottants, pour être embarquées sur le navire par les soins de l'équipage, c'est-à-dire, que la Société doit fournir le matériel et non le personnel.

Le Tarif révisé dans la mesure et dans la forme proposée plus haut devrait être appliqué, uniformément, à tout le commerce, sans que la Société ait le droit d'avantager tel ou tel établissement ou commerçant sans faire participer le reste du public à cette faveur. A cet effet, la Société sera tenue de publier par voie d'affiches et par les journaux tout abaissement du tarif qu'elle croirait devoir accorder à tous sans distinction.

Enfin pour donner au commerce et aux Gouvernements étrangers une preuve de sa ferme intention de n'imposer des droits de quais que pour couvrir le prix des travaux accomplis, le Gouvernement Impérial déclarerait : (1) que les droits de quais ne seront point augmentés pendant toute la durée de la Concession ; et (2) qu'à l'expiration de cette Concession, il ne sera plus perçu qu'une taxe minime, strictement suffisante pour couvrir les frais d'entretien des quais et du port d'abri.

4. Une difficulté a surgi à propos de la sujétion, ou de la non-sujétion, aux droits de quais des marchandises embarquées ou débarquées dans la circonscription douanière de Smyrne, mais en dehors des quais.

Il semblerait, au premier abord, que ces marchandises, n'usant pas des quais, devraient être exonérées de toute taxe, mais cette considération s'efface devant d'autres considérations dont les principales sont les suivantes :

En premier lieu, l'Administration des Douanes a le droit, conformément aux règlements existants, d'obliger le commerce à faire passer par la Douane la marchandise importée ou exportée. C'est par simple tolérance que les marchandises sont embarquées en dehors de la douane. Si donc les droits de quais ne devraient pas être perçus sur ces marchandises, la Société serait en droit d'exiger que la Douane obligeât toutes les marchandises à venir aux quais, et la Douane ne pourrait s'y refuser sous peine d'être accusée par la Société de causer sa ruine, en permettant au commerce de se soustraire au paiement des droits de quais.

D'un autre côté, la Douane a grand intérêt à ne pas laisser se développer l'usage d'embarquer ou de débarquer les marchandises hors des quais, parce que cet usage favorise la contrebande et lui enlève l'avantage principal qu'elle recueille de la création des quais, dont l'institution a tari la principale source de la contrebande.

D'ailleurs, autoriser l'embarquement ou le débarquement des marchandises hors des quais, sans les astreindre au paiement des droits de quais, serait créer de nouveaux espaces libres, contrairement à toute justice aussi bien qu'aux engagements du Gouvernement envers la Société.

Enfin, il ne faut pas perdre de vue que les travaux accomplis et à accomplir par la Société sont un bienfait pour le pays entier et qu'il est, dès lors, équitable que tout le monde contribue aux charges que ces travaux ont occasionnées.

Ces raisons ont paru au Soussigné suffisantes pour justifier le maintien de la perception intégrale des droits de quais ou, au moins, la perception de la moitié de ces droits sur toute marchandise embarquée ou débarquée hors des quais et dans les limites de la circonscription douanière de Smyrne.

Cette règle, dans l'opinion du Soussigné, doit s'appliquer aux marchandises embarquées ou débarquées aux échelles que les Compagnies des Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba ont été autorisées à établir pour leur trafic. Il est à remarquer, en effet, que les Compagnies ne sont dotées d'aucune immunité autre que celle de pouvoir embarquer et débarquer les marchandises de leur trafic à leurs échelles, et que les propriétaires ou consignataires de ces marchandises sont simplement autorisés à ne pas les faire passer par la Douane sans jouir d'ailleurs d'aucune exemption de droits; d'où il suit que les marchandises du trafic des chemins de fer débarquées ou embarquées à leurs échelles ne peuvent, à aucun titre, être entièrement exonérées des droits de quais.

Il est d'ailleurs entendu que la franchise des droits de quais, consentie par la Société des Quais et dont jouissent actuellement ces Compagnies de Chemins de Fer pour les objets nécessaires à leur exploitation, serait maintenue comme par le passé.

Il en serait de même pour le charbon destiné à l'alimentation de l'usine à gaz.

En ce qui concerne le pétrole, et en raison de cette circonstance que la Douane est elle-même obligée, pour cause de sécurité, d'en autoriser le débarquement loin de la ville de Smyrne, le Soussigné serait d'avis que cette marchandise ne fût assujettie qu'au paiement d'un demi droit de quais à son débarquement et, qu'en cas de rembarquement, elle fût exonérée de tout droit.

Quant aux blés, aux farines, et au son, entrant aux moulins établis en dehors des quais, ou en sortant, il serait équitable de maintenir le système actuel d'après lequel ces marchandises n'acquittent qu'un demi droit de quai.

5. Quelques négociants se sont élevés contre l'application d'une clause de la Seconde Convention Additionnelle d'après laquelle les marchandises transbordées, soit entre deux navires mouillés dans le port d'abri et un autre mouillé en rade, doivent être assujetties à la moitié du droit de quais.

Le Soussigné, après mûr examen, croit devoir recommander le maintien de cette clause, non-seulement parce qu'elle constitue une obligation formelle du Gouvernement envers la Société des Quais, mais encore parce qu'il lui semble juste que les navires, qui profitent de la sécurité que leur offre le port d'abri, contribuent aux charges auxquelles l'établissement des ports et des quais ont donné lieu, sécurité dont profitent également les marchandises lors de leur transbordement. Le maintien de ce droit est d'autant plus équitable que les navires sont toujours libres d'y échapper en se tenant en dehors du port d'abri.

6. Le Soussigné croirait avoir fait un Rapport incomplet s'il ne mettait sous les yeux du Gouvernement Impérial les résultats des travaux accomplis par la Société des Quais de Smyrne.

La ville de Smyrne, par l'effet de ces travaux, possède aujourd'hui un port d'une superficie de plus de 200,000 mètres carrés, égal à celui de Marseille, offrant son abri aux bâtiments du plus fort tonnage, qui peuvent en toute saison et en tout temps y faire leurs opérations de chargement et de déchargement à quai.

La prolongation de la jetée sud-ouest, portée spontanément par la Société des Quais à 300 mètres, créera bientôt un second port presque aussi grand que le premier. Ce port offrira les mêmes commodités et les mêmes avantages.

Une passe de 30 mètres de largeur et de 10 mètres de profondeur fait communiquer les deux ports entre eux et assure le renouvellement des eaux.

La nouvelle Douane est construite sur une superficie de plus de 9,000 mètres carrés, avec de vastes hangars et une poissonnerie.

De l'autre côté du port sont situés les offices de la Santé, des Phares, des Postes

et des Télégraphes, du Capitanat du Port, le Bureau des Passe-ports, et un corps de Garde.

De vastes magasins à charbon ont été construits sur la jetée ouest.

Un autre petit port a été établi par la Société devant le Palais du Gouvernement.

Un quai en pierre de 25 archines de largeur, entièrement pavé de dalles carrées, s'étend sur une longueur de plus de 3 kilom., depuis la Caserne Impériale jusqu'au Cap Touzla.

A ces travaux il faut ajouter la rue parallèle au quai, le pavage des rues transversales, la construction et l'élargissement des égouts qui, de l'avis de tous les médecins, assurent l'assainissement complet de la ville.

Les avantages principaux que le Gouvernement, le commerce, et la population de Smyrne retirent de ces travaux peuvent être succintement énumérés comme il suit:—

1. Abri pour les navires et sécurité pour leurs opérations qui peuvent se faire rapidement, sûrement, et en tous temps. L'économie est telle que pour charger une navire de 10,000 quarters en rade, il est nécessaire de stipuler au moins vingt jours de staries, tandis que le même navire n'a besoin que de six jours de staries pour opérer son chargement dans le port d'abri, ce qui procure au chargeur une économie de 300*l.* sterling, somme bien supérieure aux droits de quais.

2. Diminution des causes de dommages tels que le bris, le coulage, le vol, et les autres risques non couverts par les assurances.

3. Suppression des risques de mer durant le chargement et le déchargement des marchandises, les voyages du quai au navire, et *vice-versâ*, étant supprimés.

4. Protection contre la contrebande qui autrefois avantageait les fraudeurs au détriment du commerce honnête.

5. Assainissement et embellissement de la ville, création des tramways, transformation des moyens de transport; et, enfin, l'endiguement du Mélès doit mettre la ville à l'abri de toute inondation.

6. Le Gouvernement Local, outre les avantages d'installation plus complète et plus spacieuse pour tous ses services publics, a gagné à ces travaux de voir réduire de plus de 50 pour cent les effets désastreux de la contrebande, tandis que l'Administration voyait diminuer ses frais de surveillance par l'emploi d'un personnel beaucoup plus réduit.

7. Le Soussigné, en dehors de ces considérations, a examiné avec attention deux critiques qui sont faites par les opposants. La première consiste à dire que le nouveau Tarif serait funeste au commerce de Smyrne. Cette assertion paraîtra sans fondement si l'on considère que l'importation, pour l'intérieur de l'Anatolie, ne peut prendre que la voie de Smyrne en raison des chemins de fer, et qu'il en est de même de l'exportation des marchandises venant de l'intérieur et qui empruntent forcément les voies ferrées; mais, ce qui rend cette appréhension tout à fait illusoire, c'est que les droits de quais atteignent à peine en moyenne, même avec un Tarif non réduit, $\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent de la valeur de la marchandise importée ou exportée, et que cette charge si légère est largement compensée par les facilités, l'économie, et la sécurité que procure l'usage des quais.

La seconde critique consiste à prétendre que la Société des Quais de Smyrne réalise, par la perception des droits actuels, une recette de plus de 40,000*l.* sterling.

S'il en était ainsi, le Soussigné pense qu'il faudrait non s'en plaindre, mais s'en féliciter, car il est à désirer que le succès des entreprises industrielles, dans ce pays, encourage de nouvelles opérations de même nature, au grand profit du développement de la richesse publique et des finances de l'État. Malheureusement, il ne paraît pas qu'il en soit ainsi que le prétendent les opposants, car le Soussigné a constaté que si la Société avait perçu des droits sur toutes les marchandises entrées ou sorties durant l'Exercice 1878–79, ce qui n'est pas à beaucoup près le cas, sa recette n'aurait pas excédé 28,000*l.* Au surplus, la Société a déclaré au Soussigné qu'elle était toute disposée à traiter, à forfait, de la perception des droits de quais avec quiconque lui assurerait une recette annuelle de £ T. 25,000.

Le Soussigné croit avoir consciencieusement accompli la tâche qui lui avait été confiée, et n'hésite pas à affirmer que si les diverses conclusions de son présent Rapport obtiennent l'agrément du Gouvernement Impérial, l'immense majorité du commerce de Smyrne donnera son plein acquiescement à cette solution.

Le 1^er^ Juillet, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Memorandum.

THE report of Parnis Effendi on the Smyrna Quays is a very laboured effort to show that the complaints of the commercial community of Smyrna are not founded on facts, that the rates of the present Tariff of quay dues are not exorbitant, that the majority of the mercantile body is perfectly satisfied, and that all should be very grateful for what the Société des Quais de Smyrne has done for them. That Parnis Effendi argues on erroneous premises may be easily shown by succinctly examining seriatim each paragraph of his Report.

No. 1. Requires no observation.

No. 2. There can be no question that the general desire of the unbiassed merchants of Smyrna is that the space before the custom-house should be free. This is proved by the documents they have signed, and, it stands to reason, that such must be the general desire, as it would do away with an injurious monopoly, and would force the Société des Quais, in self-interest, to establish a fair and equitable Tariff, and to afford every possible facility to the trade and shipping.

In paragraph No. 4 of Parnis Effendi's Report he states that all merchandize must by law be taken to the custom-house. This alone then is sufficient reason why there should be a free space before the custom-house, as, by the Capitulations, merchants are only bound to pay duty on all goods imported or exported, "not one asper more," and, consequently, if the principle of free ingress and egress to the custom-house be not maintained, quay dues might be levied on all goods at every custom-house in the Empire, thus constituting an additional duty.

No. 3. Neither M. Stefanovich nor any Constantinople merchants are the proper persons to be consulted respecting a Tariff of quay dues for Smyrna, and, certainly, no Smyrna merchants were ever consulted on the present Tariff of quay dues, which they consider most arbitrary and exorbitant.

If, as Parnis Effendi asserts, this new Tariff represents a real and fair reduction of 18 per cent. on the original Tariff, why does not he or the Société des Quais publish a statement to show how they arrive at this astounding conclusion? Figures are stubborn arguments to deal with, and it will be rather difficult to convince merchants, who have now to pay quay dues 100 per cent. and, in some instances, 400 per cent. higher than the first Tariff, that they are labouring under a delusion, and that they are paying 18 per cent. less! This new Tariff of quay dues has, in fact, been based upon the deceptive principle of charging valuable articles of small consumption at very low rates, such, for instance, as cochineal, scammony, essence of roses, jewellery, &c.; each of these pay 1 piastre per case, which would be at the utmost 1 in 10,000 or $\frac{1}{100}$th per cent. on the value, whereas wheat pays fully 1 per cent., barley and Indian corn, 1¼ per cent., oranges, 5 per cent., coals, 3 per cent., bricks and tiles, 2½ per cent., iron, nearly 1½ per cent. A reduction, consequently, of 12 per cent. on the present Tariff would be a farce, and it would be absurd that any Commission should be named by the Vali or Consuls to revise the Tariff on such basis.

Parnis Effendi recommends that liquorice roots, cotton seed, and emery stones should be exempt from quay dues, owing to the low value of these articles. But then, for the same reason, wheat, barley, beans, raisins, and valonea of low quality, coals, bones, rags, and potatoes, grapes, oranges, dried fish, iron, and many other articles of small value should likewise be exempt. It should be understood, however, that liquorice roots, cotton seed, and emery stones very rarely pass over the quay, as they are nearly always shipped direct from the railway piers outside the boundaries of the Société des Quais, and are exempt from quay dues by special privileges granted to the railways by Imperial Firman, so that the Société des Quais would be no great losers by the liberation of these three articles, nor would the Ottoman Government, under these circumstances, have to pay any compensation to the Société. Taking these facts into consideration, the fortuitous selection of these three articles by Parnis Effendi is indeed a happy coincidence.

As regards unenumerated articles, Parnis Effendi recommends that not more than ½ per cent. *ad valorem* should be charged. This would be a very exorbitant average, but at present such articles are rated at the caprice of the Société: for instance, beer in barrels is charged by the Tariff 1½ piastres for small barrels and 3 piastres for large barrels; but when imported from England in bottles, such not being enumerated in the Tariff, the Société charge 1 piastre per dozen, which is equal to 2½ per cent. on the value.

No. 4. Parnis Effendi here states that the Société des Quais should have the right to levy quay dues on all goods landed or shipped in any part of the Bay of Smyrna within the jurisdiction of the custom-house, although such goods do not pass over the quay, as the interest of the Société would suffer. So, then, Parnis Effendi, a legal Counsellor of the Porte, actually upholds the monstrous illegality of levying quay dues where no quay exists, on the plea that, if this illegal measure be not enforced, the interests of the favoured Société would suffer. If this principle were admitted, why might it not be extended to every port and to the whole coast of the Turkish Empire?

No. 5. Goods transshipped from one ship to another without landing or passing over the quays ought not to pay quay dues. This is so evident that it requires no comment. But if goods are landed on the quays and shipped again, half quay dues may be fairly charged. It should, however, be clearly understood that such half quay dues be paid only once. The Société des Quais interpret this in a different sense, and charge half quay dues on landing and half dues on shipping; indeed, in some instances where goods have been landed at the custom-house for transshipment, full quay dues have been charged on landing and full dues on shipping, that is, double dues have been taken, or four times more than allowed by the Tariff.

No. 6. The new custom-house erected by the Société des Quais is very inconvenient. It consists chiefly of an extensive shed, miserably built, and in every way ill-adapted to the requirements of the large trade of this port, and the manner in which business is there carried on is as bad as ever.

The docks are in no sense a harbour of refuge. A prudent captain, when his barometer begins to fall rather rapidly, would like to have his vessel outside as quickly as possible.

Goods landed on the quay are no safer than they were before, possibly, in many cases, not so safe as when nearly every merchant had a wharf of his own.

Has smuggling been suppressed by the building of the quays? The Môles has not been embanked. There has been no paving of streets or new drainage by the Société, except on their own property, the "rue parallèle" having been opened by them for their own interests to facilitate the sale of their lands.

No. 7. Smyrna has undoubtedly lost a large amount of trade since the closing of the free space before the custom-house, as buyers from the islands of the Archipelago and from the various towns on the coast of Asia Minor now go to Syra for their supplies of European goods and colonials instead of coming to Smyrna as they used to do before they were subjected to the tender mercies of the Société des Quais. According to Messrs. Dussaud's own books, 258,034 tons passed over the quay, and the 100 free pies in the year 1875 to 1876 (exclusive of goods passing over the railway piers), which at 2 fr. 75 c. per ton would give £ T. 31,931 65 prs., whereas, with the increased Tariff, Parnis Effendi states that the actual revenue is only £ T. 28,000. Now, taking the average which Parnis Effendi considers fair, namely, ½ per cent. on value (although it has already been shown that the present Tariff is far above such percentage on most articles), and estimating the foreign import and export trade of Smyrna at £ T. 9,000,000, there would be a revenue of £ T. 45,000, and this does not include the coasting trade, which is very large.

When Messrs. Dussaud undertook the works, they stated that they would be satisfied with a gross income of £ T. 20,000. Consequently, they might possibly be disposed now to let the quay for a *net* revenue of £ T. 25,000; but, if so, it only shows the little confidence they have in the maintenance of the "Second Acte Additionnel," which they must be well aware is contrary to Treaty rights. Were it otherwise, their demands would certainly be very much higher, as they well know that their income, based upon that "Second Acte Additionnel," would be more than double what Parnis Effendi says they are now prepared to accept.

Thus far, then, as regard the Quay question in a commercial and financial point of view; but is it not strange that Parnis Effendi should be altogether silent upon the most important and serious fact of the matter at issue: the infraction of Treaty rights and the glaring want of faith on the part of the Ottoman Government in breaking their engagements and acting in direct opposition to the solemn assurances given by them to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; so much so, that the "Second Acte Additionnel" was actually granted to the Société des Quais nearly two years before it was made public; and the shutting out of the free space before the custom-house took place surreptitiously at night, as if for the purpose of hiding so great a breach of faith under the cover of darkness.

How is it that Parnis Effendi avoids this feature of the Quay question? Has he no plea of justification to offer except the pitiful argument that, if the free space before the custom-house was now conceded, the Government would suffer? And pray,

why not? If they have done wrong they must abide the consequences. That they may have to indemnify the Société des Quais for any laches on their part—and this is the mildest term that can be used—is no argument wherewith to meet the just complaints of the mercantile community of Smyrna. Evidently Parnis Effendi felt that, if he touched upon this subject, he would be treading upon slippery ground, so he wisely passes it over without a word. Nothing, however, could be more eloquent than his silence—that he had no defence to offer.

(Signed) ROBT. WILKIN.
A. O. CLARKE.
R. W. WHITTALL.
W. H. CADOUX.
ALEXANDER SIDI.
J. B. PATERSON.

Smyrna, January 14, 1881.

No. 74.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Goschen.

SIR CHARLES DILKE presents his compliments to Mr. Goschen, and, with reference to Earl Granville's despatch No. 8, Commercial, of the 7th instant, begs leave to transmit, for his information, the accompanying correspondence on the subject of Smyrna quays.

His Excellency will perceive from the inclosed Memorandum that certain papers are still required to make this correspondence consecutive and complete, and that, with one exception, they do not appear to have been forwarded to this Office.

Sir Charles Dilke would therefore suggest that copies of the missing documents should be made at Her Majesty's Embassy and transmitted to Earl Granville, in order that the case may be made complete for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Foreign Office, February 22, 1881.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Memorandum of Papers required to complete the Printed Correspondence on the subject of Smyrna Quays.

	Observations.
(*a.*) Previous papers referred to in Fuad Pasha's note to Sir H. Elliot of the 1st April, 1868. (Print, p. 9.)	(*a.*) It does not appear that there was any previous correspondence with the Foreign Office. Mr. Cumberbatch states, in his despatch No. 8 of the 7th December, 1872, that he never wrote to Foreign Office on the subject prior to 1872; and there is no correspondence with Sir H. Elliot previous to the 18th December, 1872.
(*b.*) *Note verbale* addressed by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte, May 19, 1869. (Print, p. 17.)	(*b.*) There is no record in register of this having been communicated to Foreign Office.
(*c.*) Despatch of the 14th June, 1869, sending Memorial to Aali Pasha, and inclosure. (Print, p. 17.)	(*c.*) Same observation.
(*d.*) Sir H. Elliot's No. 15, Commercial, of the 6th February, 1873, referred to in No. 21 to him. (Print, p. 18.)	(*d.*) This despatch was received at the Foreign Office, but it is not forthcoming at the present moment, and it would save time if a copy of it could be sent to Foreign Office.
(*e.*) Correspondence referred to in foot notes. (Print, pp. 36 and 37.)	(*e.*) Not recorded as having been received at Foreign Office.
(*f.*) Messrs. Dussaud's Memorial of the 21st August, 1876, referred to in Consul Dennis' despatch to Sir H. Layard of the 21st February, 1880. (Print, p. 45.)	(*f.*) Same observation.
(*g.*) Mr. Jocelyn's telegram of the 28th March, 1877 (print, p. 27), and to Mr. Layard No. 1 of the 25th April, 1877 (print, p. 33).	(*g.*) M. Dussaud's proposal referred to herein, together with other correspondence relating thereto, does not appear to have been sent to the Foreign Office.

No. 75.

Mr. Goschen to Sir Charles W. Dilke.

MR. GOSCHEN presents his compliments to Sir C. Dilke, and, with reference to his letter dated Foreign Office, the 22nd February last, begs to transmit herewith copies of all documents on the subject of Smyrna quays found in the Embassy archives, but which appear to have been never sent to the Foreign Office, and are required to complete the correspondence.

Constantinople, April 5, 1881.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir H. Bulwer.

(No. 42.)

Smyrna, August 23, 1859.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Evkaff Nazir of Smyrna has sent to acquaint me that the sea, the whole length of the quay in front of the Consulate, will be put up for sale, and that when sold it must be filled up in two years—if not, the purchase-money will be forfeited to the State, and again put up for sale. I desired the interpreter of the Consulate to state to the Evkaff that I could only receive his notice subject to reference to your Excellency, for I very much doubted his right to dispose of the sea in the immediate front of the Consulate, which was the property of the British Crown; to state, likewise, that it was my duty to protect the property against any kind of obstructions which would deteriorate its value, and at the same time close a direct communication with the sea which had existed for more than sixty years.

The sea in the front of this Consulate measures 35 by 60 pikes, valued at 20 fr. per pike, or 42,000 fr.

In connection I may say with the question at issue, your Excellency will permit me to state that when the property was purchased by the French Government upon which that Consulate was at the time built, the sea was open in the front; but in the course of time the sea on both sides was purchased by different persons, filled up and built upon; and for the protection of the quay in front of the Consulate a small breakwater was built by order of the French Government, which, having been permitted by the Turkish authorities, is a proof that the right of the sea frontage was either admitted or given to the French; it cannot, therefore, be supposed that the Porte would refuse a similar right or concession to Her Majesty's Government, and the more so, when it is represented that the sale of the sea in the front of the British Consulate to other parties would ruin the property entirely.

In the first place, the purchaser would, by erecting buildings, cut off all direct communication with the sea, and, in the second, would in all probability build up marine stores, coffee-houses, and wine-shops, and such buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Consular Chapel would subject the divine service to indecent interruptions from drunken broils in the adjacent wine-shops.

With due submission to your Excellency's opinion on the subject, I beg leave to suggest that an order be obtained from the Porte to prevent the sale of the sea in the immediate front of Her Majesty's Consulate, and feel that I am justified in making the application for the protection of this property of the Crown.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Mr. Pisani to Sir H. Bulwer.

Yenikioi, August 27, 1859.

Sir,

IN pursuance of your Excellency's instructions, having communicated to Fuad Pasha Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch No. 42 of the 23rd instant, demanding an order

from the Porte prohibiting the sale of the sea in the front of the British Consulate, I have the honour to report that Fuad Pasha directed the new Governor of Smyrna, who is still here, to prevent the sale in question, and told him that further instructions in writing will soon be transmitted to him for his future guidance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. PISANI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

Consul Cumberbatch to Lord Lyons.

(No. 21.)
Smyrna, June 15, 1866.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the projected quay at Smyrna will pass about 70 yards outside the present sea-wall of this Consulate, and that it is supposed to be within the power of the Company which has obtained the concession of this undertaking from the Turkish Government to fill up the space of water between the present and the contemplated quay, and demand repayment for the work, &c., at a given rate; and should Her Majesty's Government refuse to pay that sum, the Company will then have the power to sell this piece of land, which would be purchased for building purposes. In the year 1859 an order was sent to the Governor-General prohibiting the sale of the sea in front of this Consulate.

I conclude, therefore, that the reasons given then for not permitting this sea-frontage to be filled up still exist. To remedy this difficulty, I have the honour to suggest that the Company should be obliged to throw an iron bridge over this piece of water, which would answer every purpose for the convenience of the public, and would leave the Consulate building exposed to the sea air, the only thing which renders a house at Smyrna habitable during the summer months. Another essential object to be considered is the necessity of keeping the ground free from buildings of any description in the vicinity of the Consulate chapel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. CUMBERBATCH.

P.S.—I have the honour to refer your Lordship to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch No. 42 of the 23rd August, 1859.

R. W. C.

Inclosure 4 in No. 75.

Consul Cumberbatch to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 81.)
Smyrna, December 13, 1867.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 14th June, 1866, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that steps are now being taken to make an estimate for the cost of the projected quay, and that it is stated that the work will commence before long.

I consider it my duty to report to your Excellency that it is highly necessary that the concessionists should give a special guarantee that fit and capacious docks should be formed for the accommodation of the large amount of shipping which at all seasons frequent this port. The dues to be levied for the landing and exportation of goods will become a useless burden upon commerce, as merchants would be obliged to land their goods in lighters, as they do at present, and pay the wharfage dues as well. There are few entire days in the year during which a vessel could discharge on the quay without docks or a breakwater are made.

Another very important point ought also to be specially guaranteed, namely, the drainage of the present houses on the quay, as that which is now very imperfect will be rendered useless without great attention is paid.

A third matter to be considered is the depreciation in value of the present sea-line property.

Some years ago the Imperial Government forced the owners of all houses on the sea to fill up to a certain distance, and sold the right to these proprietors; they filled the space indicated at a heavy expense, and now they are called upon to fill up a second time, or forfeit their sea-frontage.

In some instances the present proprietors are quite unable to support this extra expense; besides, the value of their present land is already sensibly affected even by these preliminary operations.

In two cases land was being treated for in November last at a certain price, but now the purchaser offers about half the amount he was prepared to give. It appears but just that all those persons who were obliged to purchase the sea and fill it up ought to be fully indemnified by the speculators.

His Excellency Fuad Pasha, in his statement, upon which I had the honour to report in my despatch referred to above, lays great stress upon the benefit derivable to commerce by this undertaking. I cannot see the great advantage myself, and I consider what may be now called a wharfage due will hereafter become a permanent tax, without any sensible benefit to commerce or shipping.

On one side of this undertaking I am ready to admit that the town will, after five years' labour, be embellished; also that a very agreeable promenade will be formed, and a very remunerative speculation will be in the hands of the concessionists, but on the other hand, I see that the present property will be ruinously depreciated in value, that the drains will be rendered most insalubrious, and that vessels will be subject to great damages or extra expense.

It is therefore most important that owners of the present sea-frontage should be indemnified, that the sewerage should be guaranteed, and that the safety of the shipping should be secured.

No official notice whatever has been given to the public that the undertaking is about to be commenced, and although the sea-land proprietors have always protested against the undertaking, it appears that some person exercising great influence with his Excellency Fuad Pasha succeeded in obtaining the Firman, which was stated publicly to have been refused only three months ago.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate is situated upon the sea, and a formal grant was made of the sea some years ago to the British Government. If, however, this Company is allowed to fill up the 100 yards of sea and sell it for building purposes, the premises which are now salubrious and inhabitable during the summer months will be rendered quite the contrary.

This description of concession is frequently obtained in this country, but from experience I think I may safely say that very few have been carried out satisfactorily.

The Smyrna Gas Company, for instance, when the work was commenced, caused great loss and embarrassment to the inhabitants by the destruction of their sewers and water pipes, and little or no indemnification was paid for their losses, and now the town is deprived of the gas owing to the imperfect execution of the concession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 75.

Mr. Pisani to Mr. Elliot.

Pera, January 3, 1868.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Cumberbatch's despatch of December last on the subject of the construction of a quay at Smyrna, I have the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, copy of the agreement granting the concession to Messrs. Charmud, Guarracino, and Barker.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ET. PISANI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 75.

Note Verbale addressed to the Porte by Mr. Elliot.

Constantinople, May 19, 1869.

HER Majesty's Consul at Smyrna represents that the proposed new quay there, for which certain parties are now endeavouring to obtain a Firman, will be injurious to British, and I presume to the general, commerce of the place.

It is stated that it will be impossible for the merchants to receive and ship all their merchandize at the custom-house quay, and that they will thus be compelled to

pass over the new quay to arrive at their magazines, for which passage they will have to pay, although the quay would have proved an inconvenience rather than a benefit.

If a Firman for this work is to be granted, it is essential that the rights of the merchants should be protected by the reservation of a free space before the custom-house sufficient for the reception of the goods, if the merchants do not choose to avail themselves of the quay. If this is not done, the quay dues, though apparently voluntary, would become practically obligatory, and as such contrary to the spirit of the Treaties of Commerce, and the merchants protesting against their payment could look to the support of their Embassies.

Mr. Cumberbatch points out that "the interests of many British subjects who possess the present sea-frontage may be more injured if the right of building the quay be made over to private persons, with a foreign protection, than if it remained as a Turkish Company; therefore I consider that these new capitalists should merely be permitted to take the place of the Company in every respect, both as to their responsibilities to the public and also towards the Turkish Government."

I have no wish to offer opposition to works of general utility; but it is essential that, in carrying them out, due care shall be taken to reconcile them with the rights and (as far as is possible) with the interests of the individuals affected by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 75.

Instructions endorsed on the Note Verbale of May 22, 1869.

THIS *note verbale* was written before the receipt of M. Pisani's report that the Government could not refuse to transfer to the parties now demanding it. He will now inquire whether the new Concession contains the clause that was in the first, that it was dependent upon the acquiescence of the foreign Legations. He will also point out that in the original Tariff of quay dues some articles were subjected to payment equal to 5 per cent. It is well that, to avoid future misunderstanding, the Porte should know, before finally committing itself, that any such charge upon British commerce will give rise to the most formal protest.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

May 22, 1869.

Inclosure 8 in No. 75.

Mr. Elliot to Aali Pasha.

Constantinople, June 14, 1869.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Highness the copy of a Memorial that has been addressed to me by the British merchants at Smyrna against the proposed construction of a quay at that port.

As the interests of the British merchants may be assumed to be identical with those of the mercantile body in general, upon which the prosperity of Smyrna depends, a statement so numerously signed cannot fail to meet with due attention from the Porte.

It therefore becomes incumbent upon the Porte, before giving its sanction to any scheme, to ascertain that it will be for the general benefit of the public, and not of those only by whom it is to be executed.

If it is found that it will be for the general advantage, I do not ask that it should be stopped on account of the inconvenience it might cause to some British subjects, but I would expect that every care should be taken to render that inconvenience as small as possible.

An indispensable preliminary to the formation of any quay is the reserve of an ample free access to the custom-house for the loading and unloading of the ships that do not wish to use the quay.

I am informed that, according to the present plan, only 100 pics are to be so reserved, and persons competent to form an opinion state, without hesitation, that this would be altogether insufficient, and that it would be necessary to enlarge the custom-house quay by adding the whole of the battery to it.

It is in order to avoid any future misunderstanding that I have thought it advisable at this early stage to call your Highness' attention to this point, for if, by depriving the shipping of a sufficient free access to the custom-house the use of the new quay became practically compulsory, it would be my duty to object to the dues being imposed on British vessels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 75.

British Merchants at Smyrna to Mr. Cumberbatch.

Sir,

Smyrna, June 7, 1869.

AT a meeting convened by you, and held at the British Consulate on Tuesday, the 1st instant, we were informed by you, and greatly to our surprise, that the Imperial Government has it in contemplation to effect an important alteration affecting the commerce of this city, and that you were desirous of having an expression of our opinion on the subject of the proposed change.

This intended innovation we understand to be, that in future all articles of import and export are to be shipped from, and landed at, the custom-house quay. However, as for years past this arrangement respecting imports has been strictly enforced, and is still in practice here, the innovation in question can only be said to apply to exports.

We were also informed by you that a space of 100 to 120 pics of sea frontage, close to the custom-house, would be set apart by Government for operating the shipment and landing of goods.

Although at the meeting of Tuesday last we did not hesitate to pronounce unanimously and emphatically against the Government proposal, fraught, as it is, with so much detriment to the true interests of commerce, and to our own interests in particular as exporters of produce—the only branch of business which this scheme can be intended to aim at—still, that it may not be imagined that we are actuated by any factious spirit of opposition to the proposed innovation, we take the liberty to state the reasons of our dissent to the scheme.

We are of opinion that the measure is impolitic, impracticable, and quite uncalled for. Impolitic, for it is now an accepted maxim in political economy that the greater freedom the merchant is allowed the greater is the prosperity of commerce, while vexatious enactments, even of a trifling character, are sufficient to entail the most incalculable mischief; and that it is impracticable and uncalled for we believe we can easily prove.

During the winter season, for instance, when vessels are not unfrequently detained for weeks, the merchant waiting for fine weather to ship his merchandize, and has to watch the opportunity of a few hours' cessation of rain and tempestuous weather to send off cargo (for all vessels are under the necessity of riding at anchor in the open roadstead, there being no proper harbour to receive them), how could he profit by such an interval of good weather if he were obliged first of all to send his goods from distant warehouses and through narrow and badly paved streets to the custom-house quay? a place, be it remarked, moreover, totally unprovided with the proper means of sheltering goods. To facilitate the speedy shipment of madder-roots, wool, cotton, and valonia, spacious warehouses have been erected on the sea frontage, and when goods are shipped thence, a Custom-house officer is always in attendance to note what is exported. And while, during winter, the difficulties would be such as we have described them, in summer there would exist equally insurmountable objections to the scheme, for how, for instance, could packages of madder-roots, weighing 700 cwt. each, and heavy bales of wool and cotton, be removed to the custom-house in a city where the condition of the streets is such as to prevent the use of waggons or carts of any description. To forward emery-stone and such-like minerals from the places where they are generally stored to the custom-house quay for shipment, the charge would be equal to 4 or 5 per cent. of the value of the article—all this, as it is said, to protect a duty of 1 per cent. to the Government.

So much for the impracticability of the measure. It now remains for us to prove our assertion that the proposed change is uncalled for.

We believe that we have shown that the proposed alteration can only refer to exports, so that it must be but this branch of the revenue which is supposed to call

for stricter observation. It would be altogether unreasonable, however, to imagine that smuggling in exports is carried on here, seeing that it would be manifestly to the profit of Government if such did exist, and to the same extent detrimental and ruinous to the party who connived at, or engaged in, this contraband. The slightest acquaintance with the system adopted by the Custom-house authorities here in dealing with articles of export will clearly show that our assertion is not a rash one. This system we will describe.

So soon as produce is brought from the interior it is carried to the custom-house and weighed there. The bazaar dealer or receiver of the produce is thereon immediately obliged to sign a bond to pay to the Custom-house 8 per cent. of duty (the rate leviable for home consumption), provided he does not, within six months from the date of the bond, produce a "teskéré," or official proof of shipment. This document, if duly produced, entitles him to receive back his bond, paying only 1 per cent. for export duty.

Is it possible, then, that the smuggler would embark in a business by which he was certain to lose, under all circumstances, 7 per cent.? In fact, the subject will not bear discussion, and we are forced to the belief that the proposition of the Government cannot be considered a serious one.

In view, however, of the disadvantages which any change in the present system of shipping would infallibly entail upon shippers in general, if carried out, we would beg you, Sir, to lay the representations of the Undersigned before Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for his careful consideration and attention, together with our earnest solicitations that his best endeavours and influence be used with the Imperial Government to maintain the present order of things, under which the shipment of produce is tolerated from the private wharves under the "surveillance" of a Custom-house officer.

We remain, &c.

Inclosure 10 in No. 75.

Summary of Mr. Clarke's Calculations and Remarks on comparing the actual Quay Tariff and the modified one proposed by Messrs. Dussaud, Frères.

I HAVE compared Messrs. Dussaud's modified Tariff with the legal Tariff, and have come to the conclusion that the former was never arranged with the idea of any real reduction for the benefit of the commerce of Smyrna, but modified in such a manner so that the revenue of the quay should be the same either under one Tariff or the other. This has been done by reducing the rates on certain articles, and increasing them on others. The reduction has been very considerable on petroleum and cotton seed, merchandize that do not pass over the quay on the custom-house.

On importations the rate has been increased on 27 articles, reduced on 20, and 19 have remained at the actual rate.

On exportations the rate has been increased on 13 articles, reduced on 11, and 16 have remained at the actual rate. These calculations are computed on Mr. Romano's Report of Imports and Exports for 1875, and do not include the cabotage.

The result is as under:—

	Piastres.
Imports, reduction on 20 articles	435,724
Exports, „ 11 „	337,019
Total reduction on Imports and Exports	772,743

From which must be deducted the following—	Piastres.	
Imports, increase on 27 articles	198,942	
Exports, „ 13 „	65,050	
Petroleum not passing over quay	200,256	
Cotton seed	137,313	
Grain	22,623	
Coal for railways and gasworks not passing over quay	20,000	
The year 1875 was an exceptional one for the large importations of grain and flour; these articles, having been reduced, show an exceptional reduction of	69,926	
The year having been exceptional for the small importation of British manufactures, on which the Tariff has been increased	20,000	
Ditto ditto for cotton filé	10,000	
		744,110
The difference in favour of trade being		28,633

a reduction on actual Tariff of less than 1 per cent. instead of 30 per cent., as proposed by Messrs. Dussaud, Frères.

Since making the above calculations M. Dussaud informed me it was his intention to reduce the charge on grain from 6 to 5 paras, raisins and figs in boxes from 1 piastre to 20 paras per kintal, and sugar from 60 to 30 paras per kintal; these would make a difference in favour of trade of—

	Piastres.
Grain	10,616
Raisins	52,500
Figs	85,985
Sugar	63,673
Total	212,754

Or about 8 per cent.

Messrs. Dussaud, Frères, report that during last year 131,401 tons passed over the custom-house quay, and 126,633 tons passed over the quay. Total, 258,034 tons, at 2·75 fr. per ton, 319,168 piastres.

Of this sum, 17,000*l.* annually is about the value of the quay dues that would be charged on the goods which now pass over the custom-house ground, figures admitted by Messrs. Dussaud as their present loss, arising from the 100 pics, for which they receive indemnity from the Government 3,000*l.* annually.

	£
From the foregoing calculations it is to be presumed that the Société des Quais now receive annually for quay dues on goods about	15,000
Deduct 20 per cent. payable to Government	1,800
	13,200
Add indemnity paid by Government	3,000
Total	16,200

I have compared the Liverpool Dock charges, including lighterage, with Messrs. Dussaud's modified Tariff; the latter are greatly in excess of the former. With the exception of grain, seed, and valonia, it may be stated that the Smyrna quay dues, without lighterage, are dearer than the Liverpool Dock dues, including lighterage, by two-thirds on goods inwards, and eight-tenths on goods outwards, on the majority of articles.

(Signed) PATERSON AND Co.
JOHN HONISCHER.
FRANCIS B. EDE.
W. G. BROWNING.
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 11 in No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.

(No. 15. Commercial.)

Constantinople, February 6, 1873.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Circular communication from the Porte in reference to the new Smyrna Quay.

The Porte refuses to secure a greater extent of free access to the custom-house than the 100 pics, or 250 feet, forming the existing custom-house quay, but it repeals the engagement previously taken that the charges upon ships loading and discharging cargoes shall not be greater than they formerly were, which will, I apprehend, necessitate a modification of the Tariff of quay dues that had been sanctioned.

I have made arrangements for proceeding to Smyrna as soon as the present messenger shall have been dispatched, as neither I nor any of my colleagues have been able, in ignorance of the locality, to appreciate the bearings of the question.

Lord Clarence Paget, in a Report he made at my request in February 1868, stated that the quay would not, in his opinion, be beneficial to shipping unless it were protected by works not then projected, but which would materially alter the case.

As I was informed a few days ago by the Minister of Finance, who was recently Governor-General of Smyrna, that a large and fully-protected harbour was being constructed for the free use of shipping at an expense to the contractors of 150,000*l.* not

originally contemplated, I am especially desirous of ascertaining the truth of this statement, no intimation of an additional work having been given me by Her Majesty's Consul.

I have asked Admiral Hobart, if he can be spared from his official duties, to have the goodness to accompany me, as it is desirable to have an impartial practical opinion upon the effect which may be expected upon the shipping interests from the works now in progress.

If the weather will permit it, which at this season of the year is doubtful, I propose on the way back to proceed to Cavallo, in order to ascertain what may be required there in the way of a Consular establishment; and I shall try to look in at Dédéagatch, from whence applications for a Consular Agency have also been made, in consequence of the shipments of grain anticipated from the completion of the railway from Adrianople.

I would request your Lordship's authority to charge the expense of my maintenance in the "Antelope" during this tour in the public accounts of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 75.

Khalil Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Sublime Porte, le 2 Février, 1873.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint, un Mémoire relatif aux Quais de Smyrne, et répondant succinctement aux réclamations dirigées contre cette entreprise, et le Tarif des droits y afférents.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération les observations y contenues, et saisis, &c.

(Signé) KHALIL.

Inclosure 13 in No. 75.

Memorandum inclosed in Khalil Pasha's Note of February 2, 1873.

AU nombre des améliorations intérieures réclamées le plus impérieusement par l'esprit et les besoins du temps, se place en première ligne la création de ports et de quais; cette nécessité ne se faisait sentir nulle part plus vivement qu'à Smyrne, où il y a quelques années une honorable Compagnie étrangère entreprit de construire un quai. En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial lui en accorda la concession, moyennant un Tarif de droits fixés d'avance.

Malgré l'évidence des avantages que cette entreprise devait procurer au commerce, certaines appréhensions s'étant fait sentir à cette époque, le Gouvernement, afin d'écarter des malentendus inutiles, fit connaître que l'accès de la Douane resterait libre, et donna l'assurance formelle que dans la fixation du Tarif les droits seraient calculés de manière à rester au-dessous des frais d'embarquement et de débarquement qui grevaient le commerce. C'est là le sens de la Circulaire du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à la date du 1er Avril, 1868. On était donc justifié à penser qu'aucune difficulté nouvelle ne serait soulevée, lorsque, il y a quelques semaines, les Consulats de Smyrne reçurent des pétitions, par lesquelles un certain nombre de négociants établis dans cette ville réclament:—

1. Que le Tarif des droits de quai soit révisé par une Commission de négociants.

2. Que l'espace laissé libre devant la Douane soit étendu au delà des 100 pics fixés primitivement.

En ce qui concerne le premier point le Gouvernement ne peut que répéter l'assurance qu'il a donnée autrefois, à savoir: que les droits du Tarif n'excéderont point, dans leur ensemble, les frais d'embarquement et de débarquement qui grevaient autrefois le commerce. Ce qui a pu faire naître des doutes à cet égard, c'est que les travaux de quai n'étant pas encore complètement achevés, il y a, en ce moment, certain surcroît de frais. Mais, c'est là un inconvénient momentané. Lorsque le quai aura été achevé, tout le monde reconnaîtra l'inanité de l'objection qu'on essaie de soulever aujourd'hui, objection à l'appui de laquelle aucun fait précis n'a été allégué, et sur la valeur de laquelle il y a désaccord parmi les autorités dont relèvent les pétitionnaires.

Quant à l'étendue à accorder à l'espace libre devant la Douane, le Gouvernement tout en signalant la divergence qui s'est manifestée par rapport aux mesures qu'on lui conseille d'adopter, insistera simplement sur l'inadmissibilité du motive invoqué. En effet, que demande-t-on? Que l'espace libre soit suffisant aux besoins de tout le commerce de la ville de Smyrne. Or, pour satisfaire à ce vœu, il n'y aurait d'autre moyen que de laisser libre de tous droits de quai tout le port de Smyrne, déjà à peine suffisant pour les besoins d'une place de commerce si importante, et de condamner ainsi entièrement l'entreprise des quais.

Une telle proposition est évidemment inadmissible. Lors donc que les représentants de grandes Compagnies essaient de faire valoir, en faveur d'une pareille demande, l'insuffisance de l'espace laissé libre, les lenteurs que l'embarquement et le débarquement en éprouvent, les dangers qui en résultent pour eux, ils n'avancent rien qui soit de nature à modifier les décisions du Gouvernement. L'accès de la Douane reste libre, et cela sur un espace de 100 pics. L'engagement contracté est ainsi rempli; et ceux qui veulent profiter de cet avantage doivent se résoudre à supporter tous les inconvénients qui en résultent. Les pétitionnaires invoquent les Traités qui ont fixé les droits d'importation et d'exportation, mais cet argument porte à faux. Ces droits restent et demeurent ce qu'ils étaient auparavant; le Tarif de quai remplace les frais d'embarquement et de débarquement qui pesaient sur tout commerçant, indépendamment des droits de Douane; aucun malentendu sur ce point n'est possible. L'espace resté libre devant la Douane est une preuve évidente que rien n'est innové par rapport aux droits douaniers. D'un autre côté, le Gouvernement n'admettra jamais que les stipulations concernant les droits de douane, et insérés dans les Traités, soient détournées de leur sens primitif, et abusivement interprétées, de manière à rendre impossible même des entreprises aussi utiles que celles des Quais de Smyrne.

D'ailleurs, à Smyrne il n'y a pas que le commerce étranger. Le commerce indigène y est aussi des plus considérables, et cette circonstance suffit pour montrer combien il serait injuste d'invoquer à titre d'argument exceptionnel les stipulations des Traités internationaux contre une mesure qui est au contraire un témoignage de la sollicitude bien entendue que le Gouvernement Impérial porte également aux intérêts du commerce indigène et étranger de la ville de Smyrne.

Inclosure 14 in No. 75.

Memorandum by Messrs. Dussaud.

LA construction des Quais de Smyrne est une entreprise dont l'utilité n'est plus aujourd'hui contestée par personne, et s'il se trouve encore quelque opposant, c'est une opposition toute individuelle dont il serait peu juste de tenir le moindre compte en présence des avantages généraux que les quais offrent au commerce de Smyrne, sans parler des intérêts du Gouvernement que celle-ci lèserait et des capitaux considérables engagés dans cette entreprise toute d'utilité publique. D'ailleurs, on doit l'avouer, l'attitude du commerce en général aujourd'hui est toute bienveillante, et il est très facile de s'expliquer ce changement. Les quais, tels qu'ils avaient été primitivement projetés par les premiers concessionnaires, ne profitaient aucunement au commerce; l'accostage direct des navires le long de ces quais était impraticable avec l'agitation habituelle de la mer par l'imbat, l'embarquement et le débarquement avaient lieu toujours dans les mêmes conditions qu'avant la construction des quais, c'est-à-dire que le commerce avait à supporter les mêmes frais augmentés des droits de quai sans aucun avantage; tout au contraire, il avait à subir les mêmes pertes de temps et les mêmes ennuis et sacrifices que par le passé, puisqu'il lui fallait malgré les quais se servir toujours de la mahone ou du caïc pour toutes ses opérations d'embarquement ou de débarquement.

Aujourd'hui MM. Dussaud ont créé à Smyrne, et autrement au quai, un véritable port plus grand que celui de Marseille, 300,000 mètres de superficie contre 675 mètres de longueur de quai, dans lequel le commerce trouve toutes les facilités, toutes les sécurités, toutes les économies, et toutes les garanties désirables pour ses opérations. Plus de cinq cents navires, ainsi que les grands navires de toutes les Compagnies de

bateaux à vapeur trouvent dans le nouveau port un abri sûr et une profondeur et un espace suffisants pour amarrer à quai, embarquer et débarquer leurs colis directement du quai au navire, et de navire au quai, sans intermédiaires, sans aucune perte de temps, sans aucun retard, par tous les temps, et sans crainte de subir des avaries ou des dégâts d'aucune sorte. Cela est si vrai, que les Messageries, le Lloyd, les Compagnies Russe et Italienne, ont déjà passé avec MM. Dussaud des contrats pour la manutention de leurs colis dans le port d'abri, c'est-à-dire pour l'entrée et l'amarrage de leurs navires dans le nouveau port. Il en est de même de la MacIver's Company, la Compagnie Anglaise de navigation à vapeur la plus considérable; celle-ci n'a point encore passé de contrat avec la Société des Quais, mais elle n'en profite pas moins du port, puisque c'est là qu'elle fait toutes ses opérations d'embarquement, de débarquement, ou de transbordement. Plusieurs négociants Anglais, entre autres Mr. Patterson, ont dans le nouveau port loué déjà les magasins de la Société, et c'est là qu'ils font aujourd'hui, eux aussi, toutes leurs opérations commerciales.

En présence de faits pareils confirmés par des actes écrits, le doute sur l'attitude du commerce de Smyrne, et sur l'utilité, et les avantages des quais, n'est plus possible.

Cependant, comme ces améliorations en appellent d'autres, la Société des Quais n'a pas hésité un instant à faire de nouveaux sacrifices pour aider au développement du commerce de Smyrne, et pour faire mériter à cette ville son surnom de Reine de l'Ionie. A cet effet MM. Dussaud ont adressé au Gouvernement les nouvelles propositions suivantes :—

1. Suppression des 100 archines devant la Douane, et comme conséquence naturelle, achèvement du quai, ce qui permettra à la caserne et au conak de n'être plus isolés des quartiers les plus vivants de la ville.

2. Transfert de la Douane dans le nouveau port, par conséquent édification d'une nouvelle Douane aux frais et risques de la Société.

3. Construction à ses frais sur le port et près de la nouvelle Douane d'une gare commune aux deux chemins de fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba, ce qui aura pour résultat de relier ces deux voies ferrées au tramway, que la Société est occupée en ce moment d'établir sur les quais. Ce relèvement rapprochera les gares des chemins de fer de la Douane, ce qui procurera aussi au commerce de grandes économies sur les frais de transport.

4. Construction d'entrepôts, de magasins, et de hangars pour le commerce sur les jetées sud et nord du port d'abri, et la Société porterait à 30 mètres la largeur de ces jetées.

5. Construction des offices de Santé, des Phares, du Capitaine du Port, et des passe port sur le port d'abri.

6. Achèvement par expropriation à la charge de la Société de la nouvelle rue parallèle au quai, et pavage de cette rue et du quai et des rues transversales nouvelles.

7. Amélioration du système des égouts.

8. Endiguement du Mélès.

9. La Société renonce aussi en faveur du Gouvernement à toutes les sommes qu'elle est en droit de réclamer de lui par application de l'Article 3 de l'Acte Additionnel du 12 Redjeb, 1285, relatif aux 100 archines, et cela depuis l'origine de la Concession jusqu'au moment où la lacune des 100 archines se trouvera comblée, soit une somme ronde de £ T. 12,000.

10. Enfin la Société réduit en faveur du concurrence son Tarif actuel de 30 pour cent. Jusqu'ici les négociants payaient en moyenne générale pour 1,000 kilog. 3 fr. 75 c.; à l'avenir ils ne paieront plus que 2 fr. 75 c.

Toutes ces constructions diverses qui doivent, avec les quais, le port, et le chemin de fer, devenir la propriété du Gouvernement à l'expiration de la Concession, ne coûteront pas moins de 6,000,000 fr. à 7,000,000 fr.

Comme compensation de ces nouvelles dépenses, la Société sollicite du Gouvernement une prolongation de quinze ans de son Acte de Concession.

Les raisons qui commandent le transfert de la Douane dans le nouveau port sont les suivantes :—

La Douane actuelle est dans un emplacement qui rend les transactions, si nombreuses aujourd'hui, très difficiles. L'exiguïté des 100 archines devant la Douane est une cause perpétuelle de désordres, d'abus, et de difficultés pour le commerce; d'autre part, cet espace de 100 archines devient tous les jours d'un abord plus difficile et son unique échelle tend à disparaître, sans qu'il soit possible au Gouvernement de la remplacer ou d'y apporter la moindre amélioration en vertu de son contrat avec la

Société. D'ailleurs, l'intérêt du Gouvernement lui commande de souhaiter autant que la Société la suppression de ces 100 archines, car de ce chef il a tous les ans une perte sèche de près de 30,000 livres.

Comme on le voit tout commande alors que la Douane actuelle, qui est inaccessible par terre aux voitures, et inabordable par mer aux navires, soit placée sur le quai du nouveau port là où accosteront les navires, là où arriveront les convois de marchandises d'Aïdin et de Cassaba, là, enfin, où pourront et devront s'effectuer désormais les transbordements directs et sans intermédiaires entre les wagons et les navires. Et une fois la Douane transférée à ce nouvel emplacement, le maintien des 100 archines de vieux débarcadères n'a plus alors sa raison d'être. De cette façon on réaliserait alors une dernière et grande amélioration en facilitant par le quai l'accès du conak et de la caserne, qui, comme la Douane actuelle, sont absolument isolés des quartiers les plus vivants de la ville.

Confiante dans la haute raison et dans la justice de son Excellence Sir H. Elliot, la Société des Quais espère que l'adhésion et les sympathies de son Excellence pour ces améliorations ne lui feront pas défaut, persuadée qu'elle est que Sir H. Elliot verrait avec satisfaction l'achèvement de cette œuvre d'utilité publique.

Pour la Société des Quais de Smyrne,
(Signé) C. R. DE LUSIGNAN.

Constantinople, le 21 Août, 1876.

Inclosure 15 in No. 75.

Mr. Tamvaco to Mr. Jocelyn.

Constantinople, March 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received three weeks ago the papers relative to the Smyrna Quay Company, which you have done me the honour to send to me by Mr. A. Sandison, desiring me to study them and express my opinion on the commercial part of the subject, more particularly with regard to the reduction of 30 per cent. which M. Roux de Lusignan says that the new Tariff of the Quay Company for landing and shipping charges makes on the old one. Mr. Sandison told me that, for the better understanding of the subject, I might get information from the aforesaid M. Roux and others.

M. Roux had the goodness to give me full explanations on the matter, and I have made inquiries of others about it. But, with regard to the commercial part of it, not difficult in itself for a person that is on the spot, it becomes very much so for one who, not being there, has to get information from others upon many particulars before he is enabled to form an opinion. This is the reason for which I have not been able to send you my Report sooner. For the same reason of my getting my information from others, I consider it my duty to lay before you also, in a separate sheet, the basis upon which my opinion is formed, so that you may judge what reliance can be placed upon it.

With regard to the reductions of the Tariff, in comparing the old one with the new, I find that many articles are taxed in the old by package, under the denomination of large, small, and middling, whilst the new Tariff taxes them mostly by weight, which certainly is an improvement, as it prevents disputes as the charge to which packages should be subjected. Now, even if I knew the most usual weights of all the articles imported and exported, it would be necessary that I should also know the approximate quantities that are imported into or exported from Smyrna of each article, in order to make the calculations and find how much per cent. does the diminution by the new Tariff compared with the old amount to. This information I could not get from M. Roux, although his stating in his Report that a 30 per cent. reduction exists in the new Tariff made me think that he has made the calculation, and therefore possessed the data for it. But, in the Report of the Smyrna Committee, I see that Mr. A. O. Clarke has made such a work, and if a full copy of Mr. Clarke's Tables are sent, I shall gladly examine them and report upon them.

There are, however, two points with regard to that work requiring explanation.

1. As to the quantities on which the calculations are made, how far they can be considered reliable as being at least approximate, if not exact. M. Roux considers the quantities laid down by the Committee as quite arbitrary; and,

2. The Committee say that petroleum and cotton-seed are not landed either at the dock or at the custom-house's free space. I learn that as a measure of

precaution these two articles are deposited at two places out of town, whence such portion of petroleum as is required for the consumption of Smyrna is sent there mostly by land. M. Roux says that, according to the Concession which the Quay Company possesses from the Porte, they are entitled to a toll also upon petroleum, whether it be landed on the quay or not. A toll, however, exacted on goods not passing over the quay at all looks more like a duty, which the Turkish Government would hardly decide to impose on foreign goods. However this may be, in order to form an opinion, and come to a decision on the subject of the 30 per cent. reduction on the old Tariff, the question of petroleum and cotton-seed paying or not without passing from the quay must be decided beforehand, so that it may be taken into consideration, as the Smyrna Committee do take it into the account in making their calculation according to their Report.

After the above two points are decided, my humble opinion is that if a Committee of Smyrna merchants be chosen for fixing such rates as would present a 30 per cent. reduction on the old Tariff, and be at the same time adapted for the trade of Smyrna, they would without much difficulty agree with Messrs. Dussaud on the subject, as I find in Mr. Consul Joly's Report that "the best dispositions exist both on the part of the public and Messrs. Dussaud to come to a settlement of this long-pending difficulty."

M. Roux considers such an agreement impossible, but I do not think that the difficulties would arise on the part of the Smyrna merchant, because although the merchant pays the charges on the goods, and he is bound to protect his merchandize from being overcharged, yet his own interest is not immediately affected if the Tariff, being equal for everybody, is somewhat heavier or lighter, the charge falling ultimately on the consumer, whose interest in this instance the merchant should protect as far as justice requires. Otherwise the Smyrna merchant, being greatly benefited by Messrs. Dussaud's works, already done and to be done, of course, when properly carried out, must be very well disposed towards the Company that procures him with such facilities in his business.

Now, not being in a position, for the reasons above mentioned, to form and give an opinion as to what percentage the reduction by the new Tariff on the old one amounts to, but wishing to give you such assistance on the matter as lays in my power under the circumstances, I have examined the rates of the new Tariff independently of the old one, in order to ascertain whether they are light, heavy, or moderate, and in order to avoid doing this at random, I had taken at first the Constantinople charges, and made such additions to them as, according to information I had received, the shipping of goods at Smyrna by lighters, or the landing of them, is subject to.

At last, however, I have met with a merchant, who must be considered trustworthy, who has been engaged in the foreign trade at Smyrna until December last, and who is now established here, from whom I received a note of the shipping charges at Smyrna on several very important articles for that trade. These charges are paid to lightermen, to whom the merchant consigns his goods at the Customs' free scala, and who carry and deliver them to the vessel in port, the merchant taking no further trouble about them, and, *vice versâ*, from the ship to the free scala. This system corresponds with what would be done if the vessel were lying alongside the quay in the dock, when the custom-house is transferred there, and the goods are handed over the quay to the ship alongside of it, or from the ship to the quay, the Company taking a toll at the Tariff rate for the use of the quay.

Upon the information given me by this gentleman, I have made a Table showing the shipping charges by lighter as aforesaid upon several articles, and, for comparison, by the side of those charges I have noted the rates by the new Tariff for the same article and for the same weight or package landed or shipped in dock as above. I beg to inclose a copy of this Table, in which I explain on what basis it is made.

By this Table it will be seen that for the articles therein contained, with few exceptions, the rates of the Company's Tariff are much heavier, in some instances considerably so, than what they would be from the Customs' free scala, showing that Mr. Consul Joly's observation "that the terms required by the Quay Company are too onerous" is quite correct, and that after the reduction of 30 per cent. on the old Tariff is made, the rates will continue still to be sufficiently high, so as to give a right to the merchant to ask for the execution of the works promised by Messrs. Dussaud, both of those that are meant for the facility of trade and those that are intended for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town. No doubt the aforesaid works will greatly benefit the inhabitants of Smyrna and facilitate trade very much indeed, and although they, at the same time, will be a source of no small revenue for

Messrs. Dussaud, whilst they greatly enhance the value of their properties, which, as I understand, are very extensive, yet the Smyrna merchant and inhabitant must feel very grateful to Messrs. Dussaud, who, by their knowledge and ingenuity, have been able to utilize for themselves, and combine their own interest to such an extent with that of the inhabitants and the merchants of Smyrna, whilst without the Messrs. Dussaud they would continue under the same disadvantages, who knows how much longer?

No doubt Messrs. Dussaud will have to execute the works promised, but at the same time these works should be done well and well entertained, so as to fulfil their object. About the dock, for example, I see in the Committee's and Consul's Reports allusions made to it as having a noxious smell. The "Macedonia," one of the Liverpool line's steamers, being here lately, I have learned from her commander, Captain Marsh, that he does not go into the dock at Smyrna because there is a bad smell, endangering the health of the crew. The reason which he gave for the existence of this noxious smell is that five or six sewers run into the dock, and that, there being no other opening to the dock but the entrance to it, no current is formed for the renewal of its waters. He thought that if there were another opening in the port a current would be formed by the "imbat," which often blows there, particularly in summer, and when blowing the waters increase towards the quays, and when it ceases to blow they retire. Anyhow, a remedy is absolutely necessary for this great fault of the dock before any buildings are made on the piers as intended. If not remedied, the docks may become useless, and the merchants lose the benefits of which it is to be the principal instrument. At Marseilles the Municipality has been obliged to bring a river from a distance, which, after furnishing the town with water, passes through the old port for cleaning it, as there also, after the sewers had been thrown into the port, the obnoxious smell had become insupportable.

As regards the fourth demand of the Committee, to reduce by 50 per cent. the rates of the reduced Tariff, supported by the Consul (which would reduce the old Tariff to 35 per cent. of its original amount), M. Roux gives the following explanations: that the Company will charge half dues on goods transhipped from one vessel to another, both or one of them being in port, as well as on goods landed on the quay, but without being opened or repacked. This, I believe, he said to be their agreement with the Porte. When, however, the transhipment is made between two vessels in port, neither of them being in the dock, then they have no right to receive anything.

Besides the above cases, if the demand of the Committee means that when the vessel does not load and discharge alongside the quay, but sends her goods to the quay by lighter, in such a case to pay only 50 per cent. of the dues of the reduced Tariff, this might be considered a just demand when the vessel cannot go alongside the quay, there being no room for it, or when the dock is in such a sanitary condition that the captains cannot avail themselves of the advantages which the discharging and loading alongside the quay presents to them, and if the reduction were adopted for these cases it might serve as a self-acting remedy to them. But when there is ample room for accommodation, as suggested in M. Roux's Report, so that the ships may lay alongside, and when the dock is, in a sanitary point of view, as it ought to be, in such case it might be said that the merchants' demand may have in view merely a further economy in the loading and shipping charges, and I think that, taking into consideration the advantages procured to trade by Messrs. Dussaud's works, the merchants ought to abandon that demand, the more so, that it would occasion an inequality between the charges of goods landed alongside the quay, or by lighter, such inequality being injurious to commerce itself.

As to the justification of this demand by Mr. Consul Joly, I must confess that I have not been able to understand and appreciate the reason by which the diminution of 50 per cent., as aforesaid, would indemnify those who possess property facing the quay, purchased at high prices and possessing previously privileges which they have lost after the establishment of the Quay Company.

The Tariff, both old and new, which M. Roux has handed me, not being accompanied by any explanations regarding the object for which the dues are to be paid, nor the money for which they are payable, nor the rate when the packages are of less or more weight than that stipulated in the new Tariff, nor whether the ships have anything to pay for entering into dock to discharge or load—upon all these points, having received verbal explanations from M. Roux, I have stated them in the separate sheet inclosed.

Allow me now to resume shortly my Report. I cannot possibly form an opinion if the new Tariff has really effected a reduction of 30 per cent., not having in hand

the data required. If Mr. A. O. Clarke's Tables are given me I will occupy myself to examine them, and report upon them. I think, however, it is much preferable that a Committee of Smyrna merchants should fix, in accordance with Messrs. Dussaud, Frères, the rates that would be best adapted for that trade, presenting, at the same time, the 30 per cent. reduction, a decision being taken beforehand if petroleum and cotton-seed, not passing from the quay, should pay any dues or not.

The rates of the new (reduced) Tariff, compared with actual charges, are, on many most important articles, much heavier. After, therefore, the reduction of 30 per cent. on the old Tariff is effected, the works promised by Messrs. Dussaud should be executed and entertained in a proper manner; the dock, as an example, which is the most important instrument of the facilities to trade, being in danger of becoming useless if left as it is now.

The 50 per cent. reduction on the new (reduced) Tariff, when the vessel does not discharge or load alongside the quay, besides the case explained by M. Roux, might apply also when there is no room for the vessel at the quay, or the dock is not fit for her resorting to it, but not otherwise. I have applied to a correspondent at Smyrna for further information on these subjects, and when I receive this information, if I find that it contains anything of importance which I should think useful to communicate, I shall not fail to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. N. TAMVACO.

Inclosure 16 in No. 75.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Sublime Porte.

Pera, April 18, 1877.

IN reply to the Sublime Porte's note of the 14th instant, Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to state that Her Majesty's Government is willing to consent to the retrocession of the space, namely, 100 pics, left free of quay dues at Smyrna, under the following conditions:—

1. That the existing Tariff of quay dues be reduced in such manner as shall satisfy all parties concerned.

2. That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the concession.

3. That the Porte engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the concession without restoring the present access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

4. That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed dock the smell which it is represented frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

5. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 17 in No. 75.

Mr. Layard to Consul Reade.

Therapia, May 6, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 16 of the 20th ultimo, I have to call your attention to the fact that a Commission of British merchants, appointed by Her Majesty's Consulate,* having reported, on the 18th December, 1876, in favour of the proposals made by the Quay Company of Smyrna in return for the retrocession of the space left free of quay dues in front of the custom-house at Smyrna, and the Porte having, on the other hand, urged the acceptance of the Company's proposals in the general interests of the town and trade of Smyrna, this Embassy has submitted the matter to Her Majesty's Government, which in April 1877 authorized the retrocession of the said space on conditions which were considered to be satisfactory for all parties concerned.

In agreeing to the retrocession of the said space, Her Majesty's Embassy enumerated these conditions as follows in an official note to the Sublime Porte:—†

* *Vide* Mr. Joly's Report No. 8 of March 1, 1877.

† These conditions are all wrong. Those sent in to the Porte were differently worded.—(Signed) E. B. Malet.

1. That the present Tariff of quay dues be reduced by 30 per cent., as offered by the Company.

2. That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the Concession.

3. That the Porte engages itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the Concession without restoring the present access to the custom-house at Smyrna free of quay dues.

4. That the Company undertake to provide some remedy for the smell existing in the newly-constructed dock, which, it is represented, frequently prevents British vessels from resorting to it.

5. That 50 per cent. quay dues only be levied by the Company in case of any "constaté" impediment which shall oblige British ships to use lighters for the discharge of their cargoes without being able to come alongside the quay.

6. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.

Although this long-pending question may be considered as settled in the above sense, I shall take care that any reservations which may have been made by Her Majesty's Embassy in regard to it receive proper consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 18 in No. 75.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

(No. 22.)

Smyrna, May 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 10 of the 6th instant, informing me of the acceptance by Her Majesty's Embassy of the proposals made by the Smyrna Quay Company in return for the retrocession to it of the 100 pics of free space in front of the custom-house, and of the conditions under which those proposals have been accepted.

On my communicating the substance of that despatch to some of the leading British merchants of this place, a wish was expressed by them that a meeting of British residents should be held, under my presidency, at which all the points referred to by your Excellency in connection with the entire project of the Quay Company might be discussed, and a decision be arrived at as to the expediency of any further measures being adopted by this community for the protection or security of the commercial interests concerned in the success or progress of that undertaking.

A meeting of British residents was accordingly held at this office yesterday, and Resolutions were come to, which, as expressed in the accompanying statement, I have the honour to submit for your Excellency's consideration.

These Resolutions—and as a careful observer of all that occurred at the meeting, I am happy to record the circumstance—were not passed in a spirit of hostility or opposition to the Company's scheme, but for the sole purpose of insuring, if possible, a fair and equitable adjustment of the long-pending differences in respect to quay dues.

I may even add my testimony to the very general, if not altogether unanimous, feeling that prevailed at the meeting in favour of the conditional retrocession of the 100 pics of free ground in front of the custom-house.

Your Excellency having referred to the printed Resolutions which accompanied Mr. Joly's Report No. 8 of the 1st March, 1877, as forming the basis of the consent given to the Company's proposals, a hope was expressed at the meeting that the conditions of agreement therein enumerated would be carried into effect with as little variation as possible from their original force and import, and that until the proposals of the Quay Company shall have been thoroughly investigated by a competent Commission, and found to accord with the said Resolutions, the *status quo*, so far as regards the 100 pics of ground in front of the custom-house, may be insisted on.

The demand for some such precautionary measure appears to be justified by the fact that, while on the one hand information has been received here of the Imperial Firman granting the retrocession of the said 100 pics of ground, no change whatever of the existing Tariff of quay dues is notified to the public. An apprehension consequently exists that the terms which the Quay Company has so long and so

persistently endeavoured to impose on this community are about to be carried into execution, to the great prejudice and injury of large commercial interests, and more especially of the British quota of those interests. It is true these terms include a 30 per cent. reduction of the Tariff in force, and, were such a reduction really made and accompanied by the other engagements of the Company in respect of the paving of streets, amelioration of public sewers, &c., it would be accepted as a fair and sufficient compensation for the loss of the privilege of exemption from quay dues; but, as your Excellency will see from the annexed comparative Tables of quay dues, in which the actual and proposed Tariffs are carefully noted, the reduction offered by the Company is fictitious and illusory rather than real, and is arrived at by a very irregular and unequal system of appraisement. Not only are the charges augmented on certain articles and reduced on others, but some of the articles more particularly favoured, such as petroleum and cotton-seed, have been brought into the calculation, although it is well known that, owing partly to municipal regulations and partly to established usage, the landing and embarkation of these articles take place at points outside the limits of the Company's administration.

British manufactures, under the head of "Cotonnerie," are treated with especial severity, and considering the very limited profits that are realized by the importers of these goods under the existing circumstances of exemption from all port dues, the additional charges now contemplated cannot but have a pernicious effect on this branch of trade.

The annexed Tables were prepared with great care by Mr. Augustus Obrcley Clarke, a gentleman who, from having been long and actively connected with the trade of this country, is well versed in the subject, and their accuracy has not, I believe, been called in question in any particular whatever. Appended to these Tables is a summary, to which I beg respectfully to call your Excellency's attention, of Mr. Clarke's observations upon the proposed modification of Tariff, &c.

With regard to the fifth condition enumerated in your Excellency's despatch, viz., that a deduction of 50 per cent. be allowed, in the event of any ship being prevented by some "constaté" impediment from coming alongside the quay, and having consequently to discharge her cargo by means of lighters, the meeting was unanimous in dissenting from such an arrangement. In the first place, it was urged that, as in the absence of any law whereby a ship-master can be compelled to take his vessel into dock, he may have strong reasons for remaining outside, for which the Quay Company cannot be held responsible, such as the necessity for immediate departure to another destination, the prevention of a bad crew's communicating with the shore, &c., and the enforcement of the full amount of quay dues, under such circumstances would, it appeared to the meeting generally, be an arbitrary measure.

Ship-masters, it is believed, will, for their own convenience, avail themselves, as far as possible, of all the facilities that are afforded by the quay. If, however, it is, on the other hand, contended that a saving of dues may be effected by the employment of lighters, and that an inducement would thereby be offered to ship-masters to remain out of dock, there is nothing to prevent the Quay Company, which, I am told, engages in a variety of mercantile adventures, from adding a lighterage business of their own to their sundry occupations.

Respecting the sixth condition mentioned by your Excellency, that the Company undertake to repave certain streets and ameliorate the existing system of sewerage, fears are entertained that the improvements promised by the Quay Company will not be carried out on an adequately extensive scale, but that they will be limited chiefly to the ground which, by recovery from the sea, has come into their possession.

By the retrocession of the 100 pics of free space in front of the custom-house, an additional income of 17,000*l.* per annum will, according to their own showing, be acquired by the Company, and it is hoped that, with so considerable an accession of wealth, the Company may be required to pave, in addition to the streets which run directly through or immediately adjoin their own property, the Frank Street or principal commercial thoroughfare of Smyrna. The pavement of the newly-formed "Rue Parallèle," which, I understand, is mentioned as one of the improvements promised in return for the 100 pics of retroceded ground, it appears they are bound to carry into execution, not only by a regard for their own interests as proprietors of a great part of the property traversed by that street, but by an engagement which is included in the "Cahier des Charges" under which that property was originally acquired.

The state of the public sewers is very bad, and the waters of the dock polluted to such a degree as to affect very prejudicially the general health of the town. It is

therefore of the utmost importance, in an hygeian rather than æsthetic point of view, that the engagements of the Company in respect of local improvements should be fulfilled as strictly and as completely as those which relate to the question of quay dues.

In submitting the foregoing observations I must crave your Excellency's attention to the fact that a short time previously to the recall of the late Governor-General, Sabri Pasha, a very able and exhaustive Report upon the subject-matter of this despatch was, at the instance of the Turkish Government, addressed by that functionary to the Sublime Porte. It is difficult to understand how, in view of that Report, which, as I am credibly informed, coincides in very material points with the opinions given in the Resolutions of British merchants to which, as hereinbefore stated, your Excellency has referred, the Turkish Government has come to a settlement of this question, upon terms which have till now been rejected as oppressive and unreasonable.

If, however, as there is too much reason to apprehend, influences of a powerful nature have been brought to bear on the minds of the Sultan's Ministers, and a settlement has been arrived at which is not recommended either by the approval of the commercial body principally interested, or by the sanction of international Treaties or past usage, I venture to hope it may not be too late to prevent the consummation of that settlement, so far as British interests are concerned, and that, in the absence of any other more effectual remedy, I may be authorized to support British subjects in resisting the payment of any sums that may be claimed on account of quay dues which may be found to exceed 70 per cent. of the rates of the present Tariff, whatever the article in respect of which the said charge may be made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS F. READE.

Inclosure 19 in No. 75.

Resolutions adopted at a Meeting of British Residents, held at Her Majesty's Consulate at Smyrna, on Wednesday, the 15th May, 1878.

1. THAT this meeting having been made acquainted with the despatch of Her Majesty's Ambassador, dated the 6th instant, respecting an agreement concluded with the Imperial Ottoman Government establishing the dues to be levied on goods passed over the quay, and the heavy penalty which is imposed thereby on the merchant if the ship-master refuses to place his vessel alongside the quay to receive or land merchandize, they cannot refrain from expressing their satisfaction that, as they trust may be assumed from the last paragraph of Mr. Layard's despatch, the right of Her Majesty's Embassy to withdraw its sanction of the said agreement is reserved in case of non-fulfilment by the Société des Quais of any of their engagements.

2. That as a privilege in favour of the commerce of this city of the annual value of 17,000*l.* will be cancelled by the retrocession of the 100 pics free custom-house quay, this meeting hope that it may be considered reasonable and just that they should have the right to examine in detail—not in a narrow-minded spirit, but fully recognizing the advantages accruing from the new quay—whether a proper compensation, especially the five points enumerated in the printed Report of the 27th February, 1877, is offered by the Société des Quais for the abrogation of the important privilege which was conferred by the deceased Fuad Pasha, and afterwards confirmed by successive Grand Viziers.

3. That this meeting, therefore, before proceeding further with the discussion of the subject-matter, respectfully solicit that Mr. Consul Reade will endeavour to obtain further particulars respecting the agreement which may have been concluded with the Sublime Porte, for the purpose of submitting such information to the British community here.

4. That this meeting stands adjourned until the 27th instant, or such later date as Mr. Consul Reade may find it necessary to fix, in order to be able to obtain the information sought for.

Meantime, they beg Mr. Reade's kind offices in soliciting Her Majesty's Ambassador to take such steps as may be necessary to maintain the *status quo* here with regard to the 100 pics free quay until the investigation already referred to herein has been completed, and the report thereof placed before his Excellency.

Smyrna, May 15, 1878.

Inclosure 02 in No. 75.

COMPARAISON du Nouveau Projet de Tarif proposé au Gouvernement Ottoman par MM. Dussaud, Frères, et celui du Tarif Légal des Droits des Quais de Smyrne et ceux des Docks de Liverpool.

IMPORTATIONS.

Articles.	Tarif Légal.	Tarif Modifié.	Importations.	De plus.	De moins.	Tarif de Liverpool. Entrée.	Tarif de Liverpool. Sortie.	Remarques.
	P. p. a.	P. p. a.		Piastres.	Piastres.	s. d.	s. d.	
Acier	2 0 0 par colis ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	1,028 caisses à 56 à 58 okes chacune	..	751	1 1½	0 4½ par tonne.	
Alcool	2 0 0 par baril ..	1 0 0 „ „ ..	1,665 barils à 3 quintaux chacun	1,665	..	0 7½	.. par 140 gallons.	
Allumettes	2 0 0 par caisse ..	1 0 0 „ „ ..	2,317 colis à 6 okes chacun	..	1,678	0 4½	0 2½ par colis.	
Amidon	2 0 0 „ „ ..	0 30 0 „ „ ..	1,735 colis à 50 okes chacun	..	2,024	..	0 0½ par 60 lbs.	
Armes	4 3 2 „ „ ..	3 0 0 „ „ ..	84	252	..	0 4½	0 2½	
Avoine	0 10 0 par kilog. ..	0 6 0 „ „ ..	267,574 killés	..	26,757	1 2	0 3½ par tonne.	
Bière	2 1 0 par baril ..	2 0 0 „ „ ..	1,576 barils	15,776	..	0 0¾	0 0¾ par 100 lbs.	
Bonnets	2 0 0 „ „ ..	2 0 0 „ „ ..	1,899 barils à 1½ quintal chacun	1,899	..	0 3¾	0 1½ par 32 gallons.	
Bougies	4 3 2 par colis ..	4 0 0 par grande caisse 2 0 0 par petite caisse	572 colis	..	..	0 4½	0 2½ par colis.	
Bougies	1 3 2 par caisse ..	1 20 0 par quintal ..	4,383 colis	..	8,032	0 1½	.. par cent.	
Bois de Teinture ..	0 10 0 par quintal ..	0 10 0 „ „ ..	241 tonnes	..	..	1 1½	0 4½ par tonne.	
Café	1 0 0 par sac ..	2 0 0 par 60 okes ..	21,305 sacs de 60 okes chacun.	21,305	..	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Canevas	3 0 0 par balle ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	3,049 balles de 7 quintaux chacun	12,196	..	0 9	0 2¼ par colis.	
Cariate	4 0 0 par baril ..	1 0 0 „ „ ..	731 barils de 2½ quintaux chacun	..	1,196	2 2½	0 9 par tonne.	
Céréales	0 10 0 par kilé ..	0 6 0 „ „ ..	25,324 sacs à 4 killés chacun ..	..	10,129	0 10½	0 3½ „	
Charbon de terre ..	5 0 0 par tonne	3 0 0 par tonne entrée 2 0 0 „ „ sortie.	26,353 tonnes	..	52,686	0 3	0 1½ „	
Clous	0 20 0 par quintal	0 20 0 par quintal ..	11,142 colis	4,500	..	1 6	1 6 „	
Cochenille	1 0 0 par colis ..	1 0 0 par pointes ..	9,000 à 1 quintal	..	..	0 9	0 3 par cwt.	
Cordage	2 0 0 „ „ ..	4 0 0 par quintal ..	272 à 60 okes chacun ..	1,180	..	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Cornes	4 3 2 par balle ..	1 0 0 „ „ ..	1,380 colis à 1¼ quintal chacun.	..	2,242	0 9	0 2¼ par balle.	
Cotonnade	3 0 0 „ „ ..	0 10 0 „ „ ..	4,083 balles	24,277	..	0 9	0 2¼ „	
Coton filé	2 0 0 par colis ..	1 20 0 „ „ ..	2,750 à 2 quintaux chacun	16,330	..	0 9	0 3 par cwt.	
Indigo	4 3 2 par balle	5 0 0 par colis 5 0 0 par grande caisse ou balle	170 colis	510	..	..	..	
		2 0 0 par petite caisse	3,319 colis	1,660	..	0 9	0 2¼ par colis.	
Liqueurs	2 0 0 baril ou caisse	2 0 0 par caisse ..	1,203 „	3,579	..	0 0½	.. par 1 doz. bouteilles.	
Marbres et pierres ..	10 0 0 par centaine	Tarif Spécial	7,387 pièces	..	..	0 9	0 3 par tonne.	
Menuiseries	1 3 2 par balle ..	1 20 0 par quintal ..	5,211 colis de 3 quintaux	7,866	..	0 9	0 0¾ par colis.	
Marchandises diverses ..	4 3 2 par colis ..	1 3 2 par colis ..	15,511 colis	..	..	..		
Meubles	6 4 2 „ „ ..	5 0 0 „ „ ..	612 „	..	612	0 9 0 2½	.. par charge. .. par colis.	

Houille.

	Quintaux.
1,317 barils à 9½ quintaux	= 12,292
269 „ 2½ „	518

Bougies.

	Okes.
2,000 colis à 6 okes	12,000
1,500 „ 40 „	60,000
883 „ 60 „	52,980
	124,980

124,980 okes = 2,778 quintaux.

Coton filé.

	Quintaux.
De l'Angleterre 3,277 balles à 7 quintaux	22,939
D'ailleurs 706 balles à 2 quintaux	1,412
	24,351

Verroteries.

	Piastres.
300 caisses fines à 4 piastres ..	1,200
1,802 caisses de 1½ quintaux à 3	
2 piastres legd.	16,218
	17,418

EXPORTATIONS.

Articles.	Tarif Légal.	Tarif Modifié.	Exportations.	De plus.	De moins.	Tarif de Liverpool. Entrée.	Tarif de Liverpool. Sortie.	Remarques.
	P. p. a.	P. p. a.		Piastres.	Piastres.	s. d.	s. d.	
Alpiste	0 20 0 par kilé ..	0 6 0 par kilé ..	513 sacs (4 kilés)	..	717	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Alizarin	3 0 0 par balle ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	3,815 balles (6½ quintaux) ..	13,352	..	1 1½	0 4½ „	
Blé	0 10 0 par kilé ..	0 6 0 par kilé ..	47,310 killés	..	4,731	1 2	0 3½ „	
Céréales	0 10 0 „ ..	0 6 0 „ ..	23,789 sacs (4 kilés)	..	37,345	1 2	0 3½ „	
Chanvre	2 0 0 par balle ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	180 ballet	..	..	1 6	0 6 „	
Chiffons	3 0 0 „ ..	0 10 0 „ ..	7,450 balles (4 quintaux) ..	..	14,900	0 9	0 3 „	
Chromate	0 20 0 par quintal ..	0 20 0 „ ..	1,772 tonnes	..	..	1 6	0 6 „	
Cire	2 0 0 par colis ..	2 0 0 par colis ..	863 colis	..	..	0 1½	0 0¾ par cwt.	
Cocons à soie	3 0 0 „ ..	3 0 0 „ ..	165 „	..	..	..	..	
Cotonnerie	4 3 2 par balle ..	1 20 0 par quintal ..	2,432 balles (4 quintaux) ..	1,296	..	0 9	0 2¼ par balle.	
Marchandises diverses ..	4 3 2 „ ..	4 3 2 par balle ..	32,793 colis	..	..	..	..	
Opium	2 1 0 par caisse ..	5 2½ 0 par caisse ..	4,322 caisses	12,966	..	0 2¼	0 0¾ par cwt.	
Os	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	1,389 tonnes	..	..	0 9	0 3 par tonne.	
Peaux de bœufs	3 0 0 par balle ..	1 20 0 par quintal ..	5,095 balles (2¾ quintaux) ..	5,732	..	0 2¼	0 0¾ par cwt.	
Peaux d'agneaux et de chèvres	3 0 0 „ ..	1 20 0 „ ..	101 „ (3 „) ..	151	..	0 2	.. par 120 lbs.	
Peaux de lièvres	3 0 0 „ ..	1 20 0 „ ..	176 „ (2¼ „) ..	132	..	0 2	.. „	
Poissons salés	2 0 0 par colis ..	2 0 0 par colis ..	537 colis	..	..	0 9	0 3 par tonne.	
Racine de réglisse ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	35,747 „	..	..	1 6	0 6 „	

Articles.	Tarif Légal.	Tarif Modifié.	Exportations.	De plus.	De moins.	Tarif de Liverpool. Entrée.	Tarif de Liverpool. Sortie.	Remarques.
	P. p. a.	P. p. a.		Piastres.	Piastres.	s. d.	s. d.	
		2 0 0 par quintal ..	6,157 colis..	12,114	..	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Sucre de réglisse.. ..	2 0 0 par caisse	0 10 0 par quintal noir.	73,341 quintaux noirs ..	..	55,383			
		0 20 0 par quintal caisse rouge	100,000 „ rouges ..	..	50,000			
		0 10 0 par sac caisse rouge				1 1	0 1 „	
Raisins..	1 0 0 par quintal	0 20 0 par quintal sultanes	18,000 sacs sultane	..	9,000			
		1 0 0 par quintal caisse	105,000 boîtes sultane.. ..	..	300	..	0 3 par cwt.	
Remmonnéo	1 0 0 par colis ..	4 0 0 par colis ..	100 colis..	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par quarter.	
Sésame	0 20 0 par kilé ..	0 10 0 par kilé ..	14,231 sacs (4 kilés)	..	14,231			
		2 0 0 par grande balle.						
		1 0 0 par petite balle .	3,820 colis..	..	1,273	0 0½	0 0½ par cwt.	
Tumbéki et tabac ..	2 0 0 par balle	2 0 0 par tumbéki balle (2½ quintaux)						
Tapis	3 0 0 „ ..	3 0 0 par balle ..	2,377 balles	..	..	0 9	0 2½ par balle.	
Tefflick..	3 0 0 „ ..	3 0 0 „ ..	584 „	..	..	0 2	0 0½ par tonne.	
Valouée	0 10 0 par quintal..	0 10 0 par quintal ..	661,310 quintaux	..	..	1 1½	0 4½ „	
Vins	2 0 0 par caisse ..	2 0 0 par caisse ..	2,479 colis.. ..	2,479	..	0 1½	0 1½ par colis.	
				65,030	337,013			
		3 0 0 par balle ..	61,361 „	..	..	0 3	.. „	
Cotons..	.. .. ..	0 20 0 par quintal ..	3,360 tonnes	..	..	0 1½	0 0½ par cwt.	
Euféri	0 20 0 par quintal..	2 0 0 par colis fines ..						
Eponges	2 0 0 par colis	1 0 0 par colis ordinaires	14,300 colis.. ..	..	..	0 4½	0 1½ „	
Figues	1 0 0 par quintal	0 20 0 par quintal consacs	18,000 quintaux en sacs ..	..	9,000	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
		1 0 0 „ „ caisse	171,030 „ caisses ..		1,650	0 9	0 3 „	
Fromage	2 0 0 par colis ..	1 0 0 par colis ..	1,650 colis..	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par colis.	
Fruits secs	2 0 0 „ ..	2 0 0 „ ..	8,096 „	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par cwt.	
Galles	2 0 0 par sac ..	3 0 0 par sac ..	6,324 „	6,320	..	2 2½	0 9 par tonne.	
Gommes	2 0 0 par colis ..	3 0 0 par colis ..	1,540 „	3,080	..	2 2½	0 9 „	
Gommo mastic	2 0 0 „ ..	2 0 0 „ ..	59 „	..	..	1 6	0 6 „	
Graines jaunes	2 0 0 par sac ..	1 20 0 par quintal ..	2,547 sacs (2 quintaux) ..	2,547	..	0 2½	0 0½ par quarter.	
Graines de coton ..	2 0 0 par balle ou 1 ½ le quintal	0 10 0 „ ..	5,659 tonnes	..	137,313	..	..	
Graines de pavots ..	0 10 0 par quintal..	0 20 0 „ ..	2,316 „	..	..	1 8½	0 6½ par tonne.	
Huile d'olive	5 0 0 par baril ..	4 0 0 par baril ..	1,300 barils	..	1,300	2 0	0 8 „	
Laines	5 0 0 par balle ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	4,577 balles (4 quintaux) ..	4,577	..	1 6	0 6 „	
Pourre	1 0 0 par sac ..	2 0 0 par sac ..	1,215 sacs à 60 oques ..	1,215	..	0 4½	0 2½ par colis.	
Quincaillerie	3 2 0 par colis ..	3 2 0 par colis ..	3,160 colis..	..	..	0 7½	.. par 100 gallons.	
Rhum	2 0 0 par baril ..	4 2 0 par baril ..	5,336 barils	5,336	..	1 1½	0 4½ par tonne.	
Riz	1 0 0 par sac ..	1 0 0 par sac ..	53,517 colis à 160 kilés chacun..	..	..	1 6	0 6 „	
Savon	2 0 0 par colis ..	2 0 0 par quintal ..	797 colis à 2 quintaux ..	1,391	..	0 9	0 2½ par colis.	
Soieries	4 3 2 „ ..	3 0 0 „ ..	914 „ „ ..	..	..	1 6	.. par tonne.	
Soude	2 0 0 „ ..	2 0 0 par colis ..	2,752 „ „ ..	..	..	1 1½	0 4½ „	
Soufre	1 0 0 par sac ..	0 10 0 par quintal ..	10,107 colis à 39 oques ..	..	7,964	0 1½	.. par baril.	
Sucre	2 0 0 par baril ..	1 20 0 „ ..	52,324 colis à 2½ quintaux ..	66,567	..			

Articles.	Tarif Légal.	Tarif Modifié.	Exportations.	De plus.	De moins.	Tarif de Liverpool. Entrée.	Tarif de Liverpool. Sortie.	Remarques.
	P. p. a.	P. p. a.		Piastres.	Piastres.	s. d.	s. d.	
Tapis	3 0 0 par balle ..	3 0 0 par balle ..	597 balles	..	..	0 9	0 2½ par balle.	
Ferrailles	0 20 0 par colis ..	2 0 0 par colis ..	421 colis..	632	..	0 3	0 1½ par colis.	
Tôles en fer blanc ..	3 2 0 „ ..	2 1 0 „ ..	1,093 „	..	1,095	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
						0 0½	.. par caisse.	
Tumbéki et tabac ..	2 0 0 par balle	3 0 0 par grande balle.	12,120 balles	..	6,373	0 0½	0 0½ par cwt.	
		1 0 0 par petite balle .						
Verres à vitres	0 20 0 par colis ..	0 20 0 par colis ..	3,372 colis..	..	..	0 0½	.. „	
Cendres ..	5 0 0 par baril gros	5 0 0 par baril gros ..	1,142 „	..	..	..	0 3½ à ½ par colis.	
	0 10 0 par barriquel.	0 10 0 par barriquel „						
Cuivre	2 0 0 par balle	3 0 0 par quintal ouvré	1,809 „ à 2 quintaux ..	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par cwt.	
		1 20 0 par quintal brûté	368 „ à 3½ „ ..					
Cuivre	0 20 0 par quintal..	2 0 0 par quintal ..	500 „ à 2½ quintaux chacun	..	..	0 3½	0 0½ par caisse.	
						1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Draps	4 3 2 par balle ..	5 2½ 0 par colis ..	1,715 balles	..	..	0 9	0 2½ par balle.	
Droguerie	4 3 2 par colis ..	5 2½ 0 „ ..	2,516 colis	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par colis.	
Etain	2 0 0 „ ..	1 0 0 par quintal ..	315 colis à 1 quintal chacun..	..	315	1 6	0 6 par tonne.	
Farine	2 0 0 par sac ..	0 20 0 par sac ..	38,991 sacs	..	38,491	0 1½	0 0½ par sac.	
Fer	0 20 0 par quintal	0 10 0 par quintal en barres	5,311 tonnes ¾ barres et ¼ plaques	..	18,027	1½ à 3½	0 6	
		0 20 0 par quintal en plaques						
Ferrements	3 2 0 par colis ..	0 20 0 „ ..	2,556 colis de 4 quintaux chacun	..	1,223	0 4½	0 2½ par colis.	
Ferblanc	2 0 0 „ ..	2 0 0 par colis ..	4,124 colis..	..	..	0 9	0 3 par tonne.	
Fruits secs	2 0 0 „ ..	2 0 0 „ ..	9,115 „	..	..	0 2½	0 0½ par colis.	
Herbes	0 10 0 par quintal..	0 10 0 par quintal ..	2,182 „ „ ..	..	..	..	..	
Horlogerie	4 3 2 par colis ..	5 0 0 par colis ..	105 „ „ ..	210	..	0 9	0 3½ „	
Huile d'olive	5 0 0 par baril ..	4 0 0 par baril ..	286 barils	..	286	1 8½	0 6½ „	

Inclosure 21 in No. 75.

Summary of Mr. Clarke's Calculations and Remarks on comparing the actual Quay Tariff and the modified one proposed by Messrs. Dussaud, Frères.

I HAVE compared Messrs. Dussaud's modified Tariff with the legal Tariff, and have come to the conclusion that the former was never arranged with the idea of any real reduction for the benefit of the commerce of Smyrna, but modified in such a manner so that the revenue of the quay should be the same either under one Tariff or the other; this has been done by reducing the rates on certain articles and increasing them on others. The reduction has been very considerable on petroleum and cotton-seed, merchandize that do not pass over the quay or the custom-house.

On importations the rate has been increased on twenty-seven articles, reduced on twenty, and nineteen have remained at the actual rate.

On exportations the rate has been increased on thirteen articles, reduced on eleven, and fifteen have remained at the actual rate. These calculations are confuted on Mr. Romano's Reports.

Inclosure 22 in No. 75.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Smyrna, May 25, 1878.

My dear Sir,

WHEN I wrote to your Excellency my last despatch on the subject of the retrocession to the Quay Company of the 100 pics of free space in front of the custom-house, I was unable to add confidentially some remarks which I then wished, now beg, to submit. In doing so, I must repeat that nothing is further from my mind than to say or do anything in opposition to the great project of the Company which I would be justified in refraining from. I know it has often been said, and I daresay the notion prevails at Constantinople, that the Company has to deal with a factious and unreasonable community here; that they have thereby been prevented for years from completing works which cannot but be of the greatest advantage to this place in a sanitary as well as business point of view, and that, unless they treat directly and solely with the authorities at Constantinople, and put Smyrna people entirely aside, a satisfactory settlement of the question would never take place. Nothing is further from the truth than this, and if the Company has not till now succeeded in obtaining all that they can in fairness demand, it is their own fault. Some years ago, when the Company was first started, a good deal of opposition was in reality offered to them by Consuls, merchants, and other residents of this town, on the ground that the construction of the quay would block up all the main sewers of the town, and prejudice very materially the health of the inhabitants; but, as everybody knows, that opposition has long since died away, and has nothing whatever to do with the question of quay dues. Great dissatisfaction continues to be felt by the general body of merchants and traders here at the way in which the Company appear to have achieved their object of obtaining the Firman, and at a meeting of the Consular Corps, held on Wednesday last, the unsatisfactory situation of this question was condemned by all the Consuls present, including the Frenchman, and a Resolution was passed that all should write to Constantinople for instructions on the subject. It is often urged, by way of excuse for the heavy charges of the Company's Tariff, that the undertaking of the Company will be an unprofitable one, and that, in return for a vast expenditure, only a very low rate of interest will be derived. It would appear, however, from the computations of competent and well-informed persons, that the annual income derived from quay dues alone—35,000*l.* according to the lowest estimate—will represent something like 15 or 17 per cent. of the actual outlay, after deduction of the value of land recovered from the sea (most of which is already sold), which they put down at from 280,000*l.* to 300,000*l.* The Company can therefore well allow a *bonâ fide* reduction of 30 per cent. of the actual Tariff of quay dues, which cannot exceed 5,000*l.* annually, and I hope that their engagement on this head will be insisted on. A gentleman connected with the Quay Company told me yesterday that a copy of the amended Tariff had been furnished to your Excellency. If so, I would feel obliged by your letting me have a copy of that paper. There is a strange mystery surrounding all the acts of the Company, and the possession of accurate data respecting the Tariff would be of some

importance to me. Parties who have endeavoured to obtain further particulars from the Company directly have been informed that their business is limited to the Turkish authorities, and that they have nothing whatever to do with anybody else.

Your, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS F. READE.

P.S.—I inclose a copy of the Resolution passed at the meeting of Consuls.

T. F. R.

Inclosure 23 in No. 75.

Protocol of the Meeting of Consuls at Smyrna, held 22nd May, 1878.

Présents, les Membres du Corps Consulaire ci-Soussignés.

LA séance est ouverte par M. de Herzfeld, en sa qualité de Doyen.

Lecture est donnée du Protocole de la dernière séance Consulaire du 18 Mars au courant, lequel Protocole est signé.

M. le Doyen demande à ses collègues s'ils ont reçu de leurs Ambassades respectives à Constantinople des instructions relatives aux nouvelles Concessions, concernant les 100 pics, faites par la Sublime Porte à la Compagnie des Quais, Concessions qui ont été annoncées par les journaux, et dont on parle beaucoup en ville.

Le Consul d'Angleterre seul déclare avoir reçu à ce sujet des informations et des instructions de son Ambassade.

Les différents Consuls présents à cette séance décident, devant la communication qui leur est faite par leur collègue d'Angleterre, de demander chacun de leur côté, à leur Ambassade, des instructions sur la matière, attendu qu'il existe différentes réclamations émanant des nationaux Européens.

Aucune autre matière n'étant à l'ordre du jour, la séance est close par le Doyen et le présent procès-verbal de la réunion signé par les membres du Corps Consulaire.

Autriche	(Signé)	HERZFELD.
Allemagne	"	TETTENBORN.
Angleterre	"	THOMAS F. READE.
Etats-Unis	"	SMITHERS.
France	"	PELISSER.
Belgique	"	FREDERICI.
Italie	"	BRUNENGHI.
Perse	"	AKJALI.
Grèce	"	ARGYROPULOS.
Danemark	"	DE JONGH.
Espagne	"	MANUC.

Inclosure 24 in No. 75.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Reade.

Therapia, July 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that the conditions on which Her Majesty's Embassy consented to the retrocession to the Quay Company of the space left free of quay dues in front of the custom-house of Smyrna were through a mistake incorrectly stated to you in my despatch No. 10 of the 6th May last.

I now inclose, for your information, a copy of the note addressed by Mr. Jocelyn to the Porte on the 18th April, 1877, and I have to inform you that the Porte stated that the Company agreed to accept the conditions as they appear in this document.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 25 in No. 75.

Sir A. H. Layard to Safvet Pasha.

Therapia, July 31, 1878.

Your Highness,

ON the 18th April, 1877, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires had the honour to address a note to the Sublime Porte stating the conditions upon which Her Majesty's

Government is willing to consent to the retrocession to the Smyrna Quay Company of 100 pics of ground at present free of quay dues.

I have now the honour to call your Highness' attention again to these conditions, and to inform your Highness that, unless they are complied with, Her Majesty's Government will certainly not give its consent to the transfer of the land to the possession of the Company, but will enter a distinct protest with a view to protect the interest of British subjects at Smyrna from the injury which the occupation of this ground by the Smyrna Quay Company would inflict upon their legitimate rights, unless it is effected under the conditions laid down in the above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 76.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 20. Commercial.)

Constantinople, April 5, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39, Commercial, of the 1st December, 1880, to your Lordship, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, which reached this Embassy too late last evening for me to offer your Lordship any comments on it.

I shall by next opportunity, however, have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the reply which I propose to make to this note.

I have, &c,
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 4 Avril, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 28 Mars relativement à la question des Quais de Smyrne.

Permettez-moi de constater que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique avait consenti autrefois à la suppression de l'espace libre de 100 archines à condition que le Tarif des droits serait abaissé. Des objections se sont élevées plus tard comme quoi cette suppression avait eu lieu sans qu'elle fût accompagnée d'une réduction de taxe correspondante à l'accord intervenu.

Afin de compléter l'étude de la question la Sublime Porte a institué, ainsi que j'en ai informé l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique par ma note du 23 Septembre, une Commission Spéciale au Ministère des Travaux Publics. Cette Commission poursuit ses travaux; je n'en ai pas moins cru devoir, à la suite de la nouvelle communication de votre Excellence, écrire au dit Ministère pour hâter l'examen de l'affaire.

Aussitôt que le rapport que nous en attendons nous aura été communiqué la Sublime Porte avisera aux mesures nécessaires.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 77.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)

Smyrna, April 17, 1881.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th February last, No. 1, Commercial, inclosing a complaint from the Committee of Lloyd's that steamers are at present discharged in the open Bay of Smyrna instead of within the newly-constructed port, whereby their cargoes are liable to damage, and are less subject to control than if they were discharged within the port, I have the honour to make the following observations:—

The Smyrna Quay Company having completed their double port and erected a new custom-house in the midst, many steamers now avail themselves of the port to

load and discharge their cargoes, and it is open to all to do the same, seeing that no port dues are demanded, and that the quay dues levied on merchandize landed or shipped are the same, whether the vessel enters the port or not. It is entirely optional with ship-masters to take up a berth within the port or to anchor in the road outside. They can enter without charge, unless they choose to avail themselves of the services of a pilot, whose fee is £ T. 2. But in rough weather shipmasters frequently prefer to lie outside to avoid the risk of collision with other vessels within the narrow limits of the port; and again, when they are desirous of quick dispatch, coming in and leaving the same day, they generally find it more convenient to remain outside than to enter the port. It is true that the few ships that can lie broadside to the quay avoid the expense and risk of lighters; but there is not room for all to take such berths, nor is there sufficient depth of water for the large Liverpool liners to lie alongside the custom-house; therefore most steamers which enter the port have either to lie stern on to the quay or to anchor in the middle of the port, in which case they have still to bear some expense and risk of lighterage, although to a less extent than if anchored in the road.

Some ship-masters prefer in bad weather to employ lighters, believing that under good tarpaulins their cargoes are less liable to damage in lighters than when left exposed on the quay, where no shelter is provided. Extensive and commodious sheds along the port and attached to the new custom-house are greatly needed for the protection of such cargoes as cannot be accommodated within the building itself.

It was expected by the mercantile community of Smyrna that when, on the 1st May last, the space of 100 pics for free access to the custom-house, which they had enjoyed for many years, was suddenly and arbitrarily closed, in defiance of Treaties and Conventions made by the Porte with the British and other Governments, and in spite of the protests of Her Majesty's Ambassador and of the Secretary of State, that the Quay Company, being empowered by the "Second Acte Additionnel" of their Concession, which then came into force, to impose dues on all vessels entering the bay, whether they made use of the quay or not, would have taken on themselves the expense and risk of landing and shipping cargoes, in accordance with their Memorial addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 21st August, 1876, in which they represented freedom from the expense of lighterage as one of "the immense advantages" accruing to the commerce of Smyrna which were afforded by the quay, and as an argument for the surrender of the privilege of free access to the custom-house through the 100 pics. But these expectations have not been realized. The Quay Company, while they insist on imposing the dues under their exorbitant Tariff on all goods without exemption, continue to throw on the merchants all the expense and risk attending the landing and shipping of their goods, so that the latter receive no compensation in any form for the loss of the 100 pics of which they have been forcibly deprived, and have the burden of lighterage on their shoulders as formerly.

It will be seen that the subject of the complaint made by the Committee of Lloyd's forms part of the long-pending question between the Ottoman Government and the Quay Company on the one hand, and the commercial community of Smyrna on the other, which it is earnestly hoped will speedily meet with a solution satisfactory to that community and to the important British interests involved.

I have only to add that I have carefully registered the dues imposed by the Quay Company on British merchants and British goods since the 1st May last, in obedience to the instructions received from the Secretary of State, with a view to the eventual reimbursement of those sums by the Ottoman Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 78.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Captain Hozier.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 6, 1881.

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th February last, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that a Report has now been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna as to the inconvenience caused by the present system of landing goods at that port.

Mr. Dennis says that the Smyrna Quay Company having completed their double

port, and having erected a new custom-house in the midst, many steamers now avail themselves of the port to load and discharge their cargoes; and it is open to all to do the same, seeing that no port dues are demanded, and that the quay dues levied on merchandize landed or shipped are the same whether the vessel enters the port or not. It is entirely optional with ship-masters to take up a berth within the port or to anchor in the road outside; they can enter without charge, unless they choose to hire a pilot, whose fee is 2 T. 2, but in rough weather ship-masters frequently prefer to lie outside, so as to avoid the risk of collisions with other ships, which is less outside than it is within the narrow limits of the port; and again, when time is an object, and they wish to come in and leave on the same day, they generally find it more convenient to remain outside than to enter the port.

It is true that the few ships that can lie broadside to the quay avoid the risk and expense of lighters, but there is not room for all to take such berths, nor is there sufficient depth of water for the large steamers of the Liverpool line to lie alongside the custom-house. Most of the steamers that enter the port have thus either to lie stern on to the quay or to anchor in the middle of the port, in which case they have still to bear some expense and risk on account of lighterage, although to a less extent than if they anchored in the road. In bad weather some ship-masters prefer to employ lighters, believing that their cargoes are less liable to damage when in lighters and under good tarpaulins than when left exposed on the quay, where no shelter is provided. Extensive and commodious sheds along the port, and others in connection with the new custom-house, are greatly needed for the protection of such cargoes as cannot be accommodated within the building itself.

I am to add, for your information, that Her Majesty's Government have put strong pressure on the Turkish Government to provide proper accommodation at Smyrna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 79.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 9.*)

(No. 45. Commercial.)

Constantinople, June 2, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 20, Commercial, of the 5th April last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copies of two notes received from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the Smyrna Quay question, and of the reply addressed by Mr. Goschen to the Porte on the 26th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 27 Avril 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI pris connaissance de la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 11 courant, relativement à l'affaire des Quais de Smyrne.

Je reçois avec la plus grande satisfaction l'assurance que votre Excellence veut bien me donner de ses intentions d'accueillir et d'examiner toutes les propositions qui pourraient résulter des travaux de la Commission Spéciale qui s'occupe de la question, et qui donnera son Rapport à ce sujet.

En présence de l'impossibilité où se trouve la Sublime Porte de rétablir l'ancien état de choses, et considérant que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique avait bien voulu admettre la suppression de la franchise des 100 archines sous certaines conditions déterminées, il ne resterait plus aujourd'hui qu'à constater si ces conditions ont été remplies, et, dans le cas de la négative, à trouver un moment plus tôt un mode de solution propre à satisfaire aux intérêts du commerce.

Je me fais un devoir d'assurer de nouveau votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte a voué toute sa sollicitude à cette affaire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 3 Mai, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à ma note du 27 Avril, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que d'après ce que vient de m'écrire mon collègue des Travaux Publics, la Commission Spéciale qui s'occupe de la question des Quais de Smyrne pourra donner son Rapport dans quelques jours.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

Constantinople, May 26, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the notes which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 27th April and the 3rd May, with reference to the Smyrna Quay question.

Permit me, M. le Ministre, to point out a serious misunderstanding which I find in the first of the above two notes.

Your Excellency states that you receive with the greatest satisfaction the assurance of my intention to receive and examine all the proposals which may result from the labours of the Special Commission which is occupied in the consideration of this question. Your Excellency proceeds to speak of the impossibility of re-establishing the previous state of things, and adds that, considering that Her Majesty's Embassy had been willing to admit the suppression of the free space under certain conditions, nothing further would remain to be done now than to establish whether those conditions have been fulfilled, and, if not, to find a solution as soon as possible which would satisfy the interests of commerce.

In a second note, dated the 3rd May, your Excellency informs me that the Report of the Special Commission would be ready in "a few days;" but though more than three weeks have since elapsed, I have not heard from your Excellency that this expectation has been realized.

It is now my duty to point out that your Excellency has entirely passed by or misunderstood the main point in my note of the 11th April. While I stated my readiness to examine all proposals which the Special Commission might make, I distinctly informed your Excellency that I must insist, in the first place, on the question being put, as far as possible, on the same footing as it was when the arbitrary proceeding of which complaint is made took place, that is to say, that a free space of 100 pics in front of the custom-house of Smyrna be restored, until an arrangement is arrived at, and till the dues illegally levied on English goods by the Quay Company be reimbursed to the merchants who have paid them under protest.

I must express my suspicion at this demand on my part having been entirely overlooked by your Excellency.

Your Excellency assumes that the old state of things cannot be restored; but a free space of 100 pics can be given in front of the new custom-house. If such a step is contrary to the arrangements of the Porte with the Quay Company, the Porte will doubtless have to pay an indemnity to the latter; but with this the English Government have nothing to do. The Porte had no right to abolish the free space promised to Her Majesty's Government without previous consent, and I have been instructed, as I have already informed your Excellency, to insist, in the first instance, on the restitution of a free space.

Your Excellency also passes over in silence my demand for the restitution of the fees illegally levied.

In repeating the contents of my former note, I must once more draw your Excellency's attention to the phrase in my note of the 20th March, that if the demand of Her Majesty's Government is not complied with, Her Majesty's Government will be forced to consider by what steps English merchants can be protected against the breach of the engagements entered into by the Porte.

In my note of the 11th April I drew attention to this paragraph, so that there

might be no opportunity for the Sublime Porte to allege that it had not been amply warned.

Two months have since elapsed and nothing has been done. The fees illegally levied have not been restored, and illegal fees continue to be levied.

I have therefore no doubt that instructions will at once be sent to this Embassy to take such steps as will be effectual for the protection of English subjects at Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 79*.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to the Earl of Dufferin.

SIR CHARLES DILKE presents his compliments to Lord Dufferin, and is directed by Earl Granville to request that copies of Mr. Goschen's notes to the Porte of the 28th March and of the 11th April last, relative to the Smyrna Quays, which do not appear to have been forwarded to this Office, may be sent by the first opportunity.

Foreign Office, June 10, 1881.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 55. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1881.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I approve the terms of Mr. Goschen's note of the 26th May to the Porte on the Smyrna Quay question, of which a copy was inclosed in his despatch No. 45, Commercial, of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 81.

The Earl of Dufferin to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(Received June 27.)

THE Earl of Dufferin presents his compliments to Sir Charles Dilke, and, in compliance with the request contained in his letter of the 10th instant, begs to inclose copies of the notes addressed by Mr. Goschen to the Porte on the 28th March and 11th April last, on the subject of the Smyrna Quays.

Therapia, June 18, 1881.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Pera, March* 28, 1881.

ON the 1st April, 1868, the Sublime Porte gave a formal assurance to Her Majesty's Embassy that the quay works proposed to be constructed at Smyrna should involve no extra charges upon British commerce, the right of free embarkation and disembarkation being expressly guaranteed over a space of 100 pics in breadth in front of the custom-house.

In the night of the 30th April and 1st May, 1880, the Sublime Porte, notwithstanding the assurance given, and without any previous notice, proceeded to close this free space, without at the same time fixing a scale of quay dues such as the British merchants had a right to expect in order to secure them against charges in excess of those to which goods were subjected under the system which had hitherto prevailed.

I am, in consequence, directed by Her Majesty's Government to demand that the Sublime Porte will restore such a free space in front of the customs-house at Smyrna as will secure proper liberty for commercial operations; and I am at the same time instructed to state to your Excellency, for the information of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, that should this demand not be complied with, Her Majesty's Government will be forced to consider by what steps English merchants can be protected against such a breach of the engagements entered into by the Sublime Porte.

In the confident hope that the Imperial Government will at once take this matter into its serious consideration, and will promptly favour me with such a reply as Her Majesty's Government are, under the circumstances fully entitled to expect, I avail, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le* 11 *Avril*, 1881.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note de votre Excellence du 4 courant au sujet des Quais de Smyrne.

Votre Excellence attire mon attention sur la circonstance que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté avait dans le temps consenti à la restitution de l'espace libre en face de la Douane, si les droits des quais étaient suffisamment réduits.

Je me permets en retour d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur le fait que ces droits n'ont jamais été réduits de manière à justifier le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans son consentement à la restitution de l'espace libre, et cependant, malgré la non-exécution de la condition stipulée, la Sublime Porte a procédé sans aucun avis préalable à la fermeture de l'espace libre.

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté est tout à fait disposée à recevoir et examiner toutes les propositions que la Commission Spéciale, dont parle votre Excellence comme ayant été nommée dans le but de faire une enquête sur la question pourrait avoir à offrir; mais pour me conformer aux ordres de mon Gouvernement, je dois d'abord insister à ce que, autant que possible, la question soit mise sur le même pied où elle se trouvait lorsque le procédé arbitraire dont on se plaint a eu lieu, c'est-à-dire qu'un espace libre de 100 pics en face de la Douane de Smyrne soit restitué jusqu'à ce qu'on arrive à un arrangement, et que les droits illégalement prélevés sur les marchandises Anglaises par la Compagnie des Quais soient remboursés aux négociants qui les ont payés sous protêt.

En conclusion, afin d'empêcher tout malentendu de se produire par suite de cet échange de notes qui a suivi ma note du 28 Mars dernier, je prends la liberté d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur le paragraphe de cette note, relatif au fait que si la demande formulée n'était pas accueillie, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté serait obligé d'aviser par quels moyens les négociants Anglais pourraient être protégés contre une telle violation des engagements conclus par la Sublime Porte.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 82.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 56. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Assim Pasha has intimated to me that in the course of this week he will communicate to me an answer to the note recently addressed to the Porte by Mr. Goschen relative to the Smyrna quays, which he hopes will not prove unsatisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

On my way to Constantinople I called in at Argostoli for the purpose of discussing with Sir Beauchamp Seymour the best method of procedure should it be found hereafter desirable to send a man-of-war to Smyrna in relation to the question.

Considering the critical character which in such an event the situation would have assumed, Sir Beauchamp Seymour was of opinion that it would be better to repair himself to Smyrna with two ships rather than to send a subordinate officer with one.

Should the promised proposals of the Turkish Government fail to settle the difficulty in a suitable manner, I should propose, before submitting any line of action to the consideration of your Lordship, to request Major Trotter to call in at Smyrna on his way to Scio (where I think it desirable that he should return for a short time), in order that he may report upon the *modus operandi* which would have to be adopted should we determine to override the opposition of the Turkish authorities to the use by British ships of the 100 pikes over which they are entitled to discharge their cargoes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 83.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 62. Commercial.)

Therapia, July 16, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose you the Report of the Turkish Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the Smyrna Quay question.

This Report has been communicated to me unofficially by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the intention that I should acquaint him with any observations which might occur to me in regard to it.

I have forwarded a copy to Mr. Dennis, our Consul at Smyrna, with the request that he would let me know to what extent the regulations it embodies may meet the views of the British mercantile community at Smyrna.

As soon as I hear from Mr. Dennis, I will acquaint your Lordship with the result, and before making any communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs I shall await your instructions.

Your Lordship will understand that the document must for the present be considered as a confidential paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Report of the Commission on Smyrna Quay.

CONFORMÉMENT à la lettre Vizirielle en date du 26 Zilcade 1297, 18 Octobre, 1296, une Commission composée des Soussignés a été instituée au Ministère des Travaux Publics, et sous la présidence du Ministre de ce Département, à l'effet de résoudre les questions soumises à son examen dans la dite lettre Vizirielle. Cette Commission s'est réunie et a procédé activement à l'objet de sa mission.

En premier lieu elle a pris connaissance du Rapport de Parnis Effendi, Conseil Légal de la Sublime Porte, qui avait été envoyé à Smyrne pour étudier la question sur les lieux, ainsi que des explications fournies verbalement par ce dernier; en outre, elle a formé un dossier de toutes les pièces concernant cette affaire, et se trouvant tant dans les Archives du Ministère des Travaux Publics que dans celles de la Sublime Porte, dossier auquel elle a joint:—

1. Les divers Rapports envoyés par la Commission des Quais de Smyrne et contenant des renseignements relativement à la différence remarquée dans les frais d'embarquement, de débarquement, et d'assurances des marchandises avant et après la construction des quais; ainsi que les renseignements fournis, sur la demande de la Commission, par les Compagnies de Bateaux à Vapeur.

Après avoir examiné séparément toutes ces pièces, ainsi qu'un Rapport du Conseil d'Etat relatif à cette affaire, et étudié le chiffre de droits de quai perçus à Smyrne comparativement aux autres ports, et spécialement à Alexandrie, elle a pris aussi connaissance de la correspondence échangée entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade Britannique, dès le principe de la question et au moment où l'exception faite pour les

100 archines devait être abolie, ainsi que des observations contenues dans les lettres envoyées officieusement par quelques commerçants notables de Smyrne à l'un des ses membres qui les a communiquées à ses collègues.

La Commission ayant ainsi réuni tous les éléments d'information qu'il lui a été possible d'obtenir, a cru devoir examiner quels étaient les avantages et les inconvénients résultant des quais, au point de vue du commerce, quelle était la valeur des plaintes formulées par quelques commerçants, et dans quelle mesure satisfaction pouvait être donnée à ces plaintes, et elle a l'honneur d'exposer comme suit le résultat de ses délibérations à cet égard.

Parmi les avantages directs que le commerce retire de la construction des quais il convient de citer en première ligne—

1. La diminution des frais d'assurance.

2. La diminution notable des jours de starié, qui aujourd'hui pour un navire ayant à faire un chargement de 10,000 quarters se réduisent à six jours, tandis qu'avant la construction des quais il en fallait vingt (ainsi qu'il résulte des renseignements fournis par M. Vander Sée) réduction qui produit une économie de £T. 300, somme bien supérieure aux droits de quai. M. Paterson a profité pour charger plusieurs navires de cette diminution des jours de starié, et a ainsi réalisé un gain considerable.

3. La diminution considérable de risques tels que le bris, le coulage, et le vol, risques non couverts par les Compagnies d'Assurances.

4. La sécurité acquise pour les armateurs dans l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises qui ne sont plus exposées aux dangers et aux risques de la mer, les navires ne mouillant plus au large.

5. La possibilité d'établir une surveillance efficace pour empêcher la contrebande qui s'exerçait jusque là au détriment des intérêts du fisc et du commerce honnête.

Sans compter une foule d'autres avantages détaillés dans le Rapport de Parnis Effendi en date du 1er Juillet, 1880, il convient aussi de citer, en dehors des quais, la construction d'un port d'une superficie de 200,000 mètres carrés, le prolongement de la jetée jusqu'au dit port, de façon à former un second port d'une égale superficie, l'établissement d'une passe, de 30 mètres de largeur et de 10 mètres de profondeur, entre les deux ports pour assurer le renouvellement des eaux, la construction de nouveaux bâtiments destinés à la Douane, la quarantaine, l'Administration des phares, celle des postes et télégraphes, le capitanat de port et autres, l'établissement sur la jetée de vastes entrepôts de charbon, la construction d'un autre port devant le Palais du Gouvernement, l'ouverture d'une grande voie parallèle à la ligne des quais, le pavage de cette voie et des rues y aboutissant, l'ouverture et la réjection des égouts, travaux qui ont contribué à l'embellissement et assuré la salubrité de la ville et qui, par conséquent, doivent compter parmi les avantages indirects retirés de l'établissement des quais au point de vue de l'intérêt général. En regard de tant d'avantages les droits de quai perçus ne peuvent être réellement taxés d'exorbitants, puisque la totalité de ces droits perçus sur les marchandises importées et exportées atteint en moyenne tout au plus le demi pour cent de leur valeur, ce qui n'est pas exagéré si on les compare dans leur ensemble aux charges supportés par le commerce dans les autres ports, d'autant plus, qu'ainsi qu'il résulte du Mémoire attaché au Rapport cité et dont la Commission a aussi pris connaissance, les nouveaux Tarifs ont subi une réduction de 18 pour cent en comparaison des anciens Tarifs. La Commission a encore acquis la conviction que par suite des travaux faits par la Société, tels que la grande voie parallèle à la ligne des quais, le pavage de cette voie, ainsi que des rues y aboutissant, l'élargissement et la réjection des égouts, la régularisation des cours du Mélès que la Société s'engage à entreprendre, la salubrité publique à été améliorée, et que cet état de choses constitue un avantage immense au point de vue de la population de la ville en dehors de ceux dont jouit déjà, d'une façon directe, le commerce local par l'établissement des quais. Il n'y a donc qu'à se louer à tous les points de vue des savants de la Société. La Commission a en même temps constaté que les droits de quai ne sont pas en moyenne supérieurs aux frais d'embarquement et de débarquement subis par le commerce avant l'établissement des quais. Pas contre elle a reconnu—

1. Qu'il était incontestable que les commerçants s'occupant du commerce d'importation et d'exportation se plaignent avec raison de ce que les droits de quai perçus sur certains produits d'exportation tels que coton, valonniés, émeri, céréales, tabac, et certaines matières premières importées tel que le charbon de terre, le fer, et le plomb, sont exorbitants en comparaison de la valeur de ces marchandises et des frais qu'elles occasionnaient avant l'établissement des quais; qu'en outre, en considérant que la Sublime Porte avait par une Circulaire assuré les Ambassades qu'il ne serait, après l'établissement des quais, imposé au commerce local aucune charge supérieure à celle

qu'il subissait avant leur établissement pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises, il n'est pas admissible de maintenir les droits actuels sur les marchandises de la nature de celles spécifiées plus haut, et qu'il y a lieu d'opérer une réduction sur ces droits.

2. Que comme certaines marchandises ne sont pas spécifiées dans le Tarif et qu'elles peuvent donner lieu à une fixation arbitraire des droits à percevoir, il est de toute nécessité de stipuler que les droits à percevoir sur ces marchandises ne devront jamais dépasser le demi pour cent de leur valeur.

3. Qu'il est évidemment incontestable que la demande faite par le commerce local pour que la Compagnie accorde gratuitement le matériel nécessaire pour le débarquement et l'embarquement des marchandises aux navires n'accostant pas les quais par le flanc est légitime, et qu'il y a par conséquent lieu d'y faire droit.

D'une autre part, dans la note verbale de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre en date du 18 Avril, 1877, en réponse à celle de la Sublime Porte en date du 14 du même mois, il avait été indiqué cinq conditions au moyen de l'acceptation desquelles il serait mis fin à l'opposition soulevée par les sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique à l'annulation de l'exception faite en faveur de 100 archines.

Quant à ces cinq conditions elles concernaient la réduction des Tarifs de façon à satisfaire tous les intéressés, le maintien de ce Tarif réduit jusqu'à l'expiration de la Concession, la déclaration à faire par la Sublime Porte de rétablir les 100 archines libres, si à l'expiration de la Concession les droits étaient augmentés; en outre, l'Ambassade demandait que les facilités voulues fussent accordées au commerce pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises.

Ainsi qu'il résulte des détails plus haut donnés, la Commission a pu sans peine s'apercevoir que les avantages procurés par ces travaux de la Société sont tellement grands qu'ils n'admettent aucune comparaison avec les inconvénients qui en résultent, et dans le but de mettre fin aux plaintes de quelques commerçants et de trouver une solution à cette question, elle croit devoir, dans l'intérêt même du Gouvernement Impérial, proposer les mesures suivantes:

Considérant que la Municipalité de Smyrne a déjà profité des travaux d'assainissement et d'embellissement faits par la Société, ainsi qu'il est dit plus haut, travaux que l'on peut évaluer déjà à une somme de 50,000*l.*; et que le profit qu'en retire la ville est déjà suffisant.

Considérant que si le Gouvernement faisait à l'avenir abandon des 12 pour cent des recettes brutes affectées à la Municipalité, cet abandon permettrait de réduire les droits sur certaines marchandises qui paraissent surtaxées en raison de la modicité de leur valeur.

Considerant, d'une autre part, qu'il y a lieu par la Société d'accorder gratuitement le matériel nécessaire pour le débarquement et l'embarquement des marchandises aux navires n'accostant pas par le flanc, la Commission a invité M. Caporal, représentant de la Société, pour s'entendre avec lui à cet égard, et a pris bonne note de ses déclarations, dont il résulte que, quoique la Compagnie n'est pas obligée, d'après ses Conventions, de subir cette charge, d'autant plus que la conservation de ce matériel occasionnait une dépense annuelle assez considérable, elle consentirait, si les mesures proposées par la Commission dans le but de mettre fin au litige pendant étaient adoptées, à mettre gratuitement à la disposition du commerce le matériel voulu, en prenant à sa charge les frais d'entretien; qu'en outre, la Compagnie n'avait aucune objection à soulever contre la clause par laquelle il devait lui être enjoint de ne faire aucune exception en faveur d'un commerçant ou d'une Compagnie au détriment des autres, quant à ce qui concernait les facilités à accorder au commerce en général, à l'égard duquel la Compagnie ne s'était, du reste, jusqu'ici jamais départie de la règle de l'égalité de traitements, de même qu'elle ne s'opposait pas à l'insertion d'une clause stipulant que les droits des quais à percevoir sur les marchandises non spécifiées dans les Tarifs ne devraient jamais dépasser le demi pour cent de leur valeur.

La Commission tant en prenant note des déclarations de M. Caporal, et dans le but d'arriver à une solution à l'amiable de toutes les difficultés pendantes, et de mettre une fois pour toutes fin aux plaintes et réclamations du commerce, a l'honneur de proposer au Gouvernement Impérial:—

1. D'abandonner dès à présent les 12 pour cent de ces recettes brutes affectées jusqu'ici à la Municipalité de Smyrne.

2. De former à Smyrne, et sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général, une Commission formée des notables commerçants de toutes nationalités, à choisir par son Excellence, à l'effet de déterminer les marchandises sur lesquelles doit avoir lieu, en déduction des droits des quais, la répartition de la somme à laquelle s'élèvent les

12 pour cent des recettes brutes de la Société, et de présenter à la Sublime Porte le Rapport à faire par elle sur les bases plus haut indiquées afin qu'il soit agi en conséquence.

3. D'insérer dans la Convention Additionnelle une clause spécifiant que les droits de quai à percevoir sur les marchandises non spécifiées dans les Tarifs ne devront en aucun cas dépasser le demi pour cent de leur valeur, et que l'égalité de traitement sera appliquée à tout le commerce général sans exception en faveur de qui que ce soit.

La Compagnie devra, en outre, fournir gratuitement le matériel nécessaire pour le débarquement et l'embarquement des marchandises aux navires n'accostant pas par le flanc, et prendre à sa charge les frais d'entretien de ce matériel; ces clauses essentielles devant faire l'objet d'une notification spéciale de la part du Ministère des Travaux Publics à la Compagnie.

Si la Porte veut bien accepter les propositions plus haut soumises à sa haute appréciation, nous pensons que les concessions réciproques à faire, telles qu'elles sont délinies plus haut, sont de nature à satisfaire toutes les parties sans qu'il y ait lieu d'imposer ni à l'Etat ni à la Société de nouveaux sacrifices.

C'est à la Sublime Porte de décider s'il y aurait oui ou non lieu d'écrire à l'Ambassade Britannique que le Gouvernement Impérial a l'intention de maintenir les Tarifs réduits jusqu'à la fin de la Concession, et de ne pas les élever à l'expiration de cette Concession.

De cette façon les cinq conditions indiquées par cette Ambassade dans sa note du 18 Avril seraient complètement satisfaites.

(Signé) HASSAN FAHRI.
MIKAIL.
EDWARDS.
BRIOT.
C. T. GRACE.

Constantinople, le $\frac{4}{16}$ *Juin*, 1881.

No. 84.

Observations by Mr. F. R. St. John on the Report of the Turkish Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the Smyrna Quay Question.

I AM astonished, after all that has been written on the subject, that the members composing this Commission, of which one is an Englishman, can have affixed their names to a document which is a tissue of misrepresentations almost from beginning to end, and therefore nearly worthless.

The proposal to appoint a Committee of merchants of all nationalities, under the presidency of the Governor-General at Smyrna, is in itself the only practical suggestion contained in the document under consideration, and one which may be accepted by the merchants provided that each member of the Committee is elected by those whose interests he is to represent, and not selected at will by the Pasha. Such a Committee, moreover, should have for its object the distribution not merely of the 12 per cent. reduction recommended by the Turkish Commission, but of a *bond fide* reduction of 30 per cent.

It is erroneously assumed by this Turkish Commission that a reduction of 12 per cent., when added to the pretended one of 18 per cent. in the last modification of the Tariff, will constitute the 30 per cent. reduction in consideration of which the mercantile community would be willing to forego their right to the free space of 100 pikes facing the custom-house; whereas it has been proved, and the Turkish Commission must have known—for I had supplied it with all documentary proof through one of its members who applied to me for information—that this supposed reduction of 18 per cent. was quite fictitious and illusory, and amounted, in fact, to an augmentation of the scale of charges. For the Company had, when called upon for a reduction, craftily reduced their charges on many articles of small value, some of them never passing over the quay at all, and had largely increased the charges on those articles which constitute the chief trade of Smyrna.

It will be necessary, moreover, in view of the very large interests—amounting to fully one-half of the 9,000,000*l.* worth of yearly trade of Smyrna—to be represented by the proposed British Delegate, that no decision should be come to except by unanimity of votes, as it might otherwise happen that a majority of members, representing a

minimum amount of interests, would be induced to throw in their weight on the side which most favoured the Quay Company.

Short of the above conditions, I feel convinced, from my many conversations with the merchants of every nationality during nearly a month's residence at Smyrna last year, that all proposals for an arrangement would be rejected, and that the merchants would hold out for what is their undoubted right, namely, free access for their goods to and from the custom-house. If this right is practically restored to them, the Company will then be forced so to reduce its charges as to draw to itself that custom which is certain to flow to it, in spite of quay dues, when adequate advantages to commerce are offered in return.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

August 3, 1881.

No. 85.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 77. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE consulted Mr. Goschen and Mr. St. John with respect to the Smyrna Quay question, on the statements in regard to it contained in your despatches Nos. 56 and 62, Commercial, of the 3rd and 16th ultimo.

I now transmit, for your information, a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. St. John,* in anticipation of the further Report on the subject mentioned in your despatch of the 16th ultimo as about to be sent home.

I am, &c.

(For Earl Granville),

(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 86.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 80. Commercial.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the Memorandum furnished to me by Mr. Dennis on the subject of the Smyrna quays, which may be regarded as representing the mercantile opinion of the locality upon the new propositions of the Porte which are now under your Lordship's consideration.

I have given the Ottoman Government to understand, in very uncompromising language, that I have received peremptory instructions from your Lordship to take steps of the most serious nature in order to secure our undoubted rights in reference to this question.

It is possible that the language of menace I have adopted may be productive of some effect, and as the question principally hinges upon the correctness of certain calculations, I would suggest that two persons, respectively nominated by the Embassy and by the Porte, should go into the figures.

The accuracy of the English statement being thus demonstrated, as I have no doubt would be the case, we should then be in a better position to vindicate our rights.

If your Lordship approves of this plan, I would employ Major Trotter for the purpose; and I have reason to think that the Porte might be induced to nominate a responsible and trustworthy person to confer with him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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* No. 84.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Observations of the Committee of Smyrna Merchants on the Report of the Commission instituted by the Porte to consider the Smyrna Quay Question.

(Confidential.)

THE Report of the Commission instituted at Constantinople by the Imperial Ottoman Government to examine the pending questions respecting the Smyrna quay is a tissue of misrepresentations seeking to justify the present exorbitant Tariff, and a series of specious arguments in futile endeavours to extenuate the violation by the Turkish Government of the Capitulations and Treaties, and disregard of solemn declarations and promises in depriving Smyrna of a free custom-house quay, a right that has existed from time immemorial, not only at Smyrna, but at every port of the Turkish Empire, and indeed at every port of the civilized world—a right, moreover, that was specially confirmed to Smyrna by the Imperial Government, and admitted and acknowledged by the Société des Quais before they commenced their works.

The misrepresentation of facts in the Report of the Constantinople Commission is so glaring, that it is difficult to conceive how such false statements could be so recklessly admitted into an official document.

When the original concession was granted for the construction of the Smyrna quay, it was stated to be for the purpose of affording facilities to commerce. Now, although we may concede that such facilities have in some degree been afforded, it must likewise be admitted that these facilities are very deficient indeed when compared with those of the Liverpool and other docks, especially when we bear in mind that the present Smyrna quay dues are in many cases 200 to 400 per cent. in excess of those of Liverpool, as shown in our General Report of the 16th April, 1880.

It is true that Messrs. Paterson and Co. did once load in six days 8,680 quarters of barley (not 10,000) on board a steamer moored opposite their warehouses facing the quay, but this could only be done in fine weather, as that part of the quay is quite exposed, and there is not sufficient depth of water to allow such a steamer to come broadside on without intermediate pontoons, which have hitherto been paid for by the shippers. Many captains, however, refuse to come alongside pontoons, preferring to anchor at some distance and to receive their cargo by lighters, which, during fine weather, they can do as fast as alongside the quay.

Messrs. Paterson and Co. are greatly surprised that the Constantinople Commission should have inserted in their Report so exaggerated a statement as that they saved 300*l.* in lay days on each of the several steamers loaded by them. They unhesitatingly declare that there is no foundation whatever for such assertion, and that they did not realize any saving whatever in lay days by loading alongside the quay. A steamer of similar dimensions to that alluded to, if lying at anchor in the bay, might, during fine weather, easily take in 2,000 quarters each day, as proved by the fact that the steamship "Nephthis" anchored in the bay, loaded and discharged between 8 A.M. on the 23rd March, 1878, and 3 P.M. on the 24th March, 1878, or in thirty-one hours, 2,690 quarters of grain, 2,144 packages merchandize, weighing 370 tons, and 379 sheep.

In Salonica a similar steamer could load in three days, and in Liverpool in a single day; the quay dues in the latter amounting to 25*l.*, whilst in Smyrna, whether the vessel is alongside the quay or at anchor in the bay, the quay dues would be about 110*l.*

The Société des Quais has done absolutely nothing for the town of Smyrna in the way of sewerage or paving, excepting the paving and sewerage of the Rue Parallèle and its approaches to the quay, all of which are in the company's own property, consisting of land reclaimed from the sea, and which the Société des Quais has been selling, and continues to sell, at very high prices.

Before the quay was constructed there were upwards of sixty drains which ran to the sea; these were nearly all closed by the filling up of the quay, and only about thirteen new drains were opened to the sea, so that all the other drains in the town had to find their way to these as best they could, instead of a general receiving drain being constructed in the Rue Parallèle, as the authorities ought to have insisted upon before allowing the Société to close all the previous issues. The proceedings of the Société have consequently entailed considerable expense upon the Municipality and the inhabitants of the town.

The Municipality has never been, directly or indirectly, benefited by improvements to the town of Smyrna made by the Société des Quais, gratuitously asserted.

in the Report as equal to 50,000*l.*; nor has the Municipality ever received any sum whatever, from the Government or otherwise, arising out of the quay revenues. Perhaps some of the fine houses on the quay are considered a good and fair equivalent for the loss of a free custom-house quay, and for the exorbitant rates of quay dues. As well might London merchants be taxed to remunerate those engaged in land and building speculations at South Kensington.

The Commission asserts that the Tariff annexed to the 2nd Article Additional represents a reduction of 18 per cent. on the former one. This is a positive misstatement, and will not bear the test of examination. Some important articles of commerce have been increased to the enormous extent of 400 to 500 per cent. The increase on twelve articles referred to in our Report of the 16th April, 1880—say, manufactures, butter, canvas, cordage, cotton, carpets, hardware, oil, leather, opium, sugar, and wool—shows an average of 285 per cent. The only important reductions are on figs and raisins, which are equal to 50 per cent., and on petroleum, equal to 75 per cent.; the reductions on other articles are in many instances on goods that are produced in the neighbourhood for Smyrna consumption, and do not consequently affect foreign trade.

The Commission likewise asserts that the average quay dues do not exceed ½ per cent. on the value; but this again is an assertion made without proof, and based altogether upon false figures, which have evidently never been examined. We maintain that, with the exception of jewellery, indigo, cochineal, opium, and such special articles of value, the minimum on almost all enumerated articles is ½ per cent., and this in some instances is increased beyond even 3 per cent.

Coal, for instance, pays over 2½ per cent., whilst on unenumerated articles we have heard of much more being charged.

There is actually no published Tariff, so that the Société exacts, in many instances, whatever it pleases; there is no check and no appeal, as the goods, after the duty has been paid, cannot be removed until the demands of the Société have been satisfied. We have already shown in a former Report that ½ per cent. on the value of goods is an enormous quay rate, and that an *ad valorem* tax is altogether a wrong basis. Take, for instance, Liverpool and Trieste; in the former port a case of opium, worth 100*l.* to 200*l.*, is rated at 2½*d.* per cwt. inwards and ½*d.* outwards, whilst at Trieste all goods pay one invariable rate of 1½*d.* per ton, with the right of remaining three days on the quay free of rent. At Trieste there are likewise several places where goods can be landed free. The Commission, in one part of its Report, states that the present rates cannot be considered exorbitant, whilst in another part it admits that some goods are overrated, and recommends reduction. Amongst the latter, valonia is specially mentioned. This is, indeed, very strange, for valonia is the only important article in the whole Tariff that is fairly taxed, the rate being equal to about 1 fr. per ton, which is what it costs in Liverpool, and what it cost the shippers here before the construction of the quay, provided always, however, that the vessel loads broadside on to the quay; otherwise the shipper has to pay 1 fr. per ton for quay dues, and likewise 1 fr. per ton, as before, for lighters.

The Commission states that the present rates of quay dues do not exceed what merchants had to pay before the construction of the quay. This is again a gross misstatement of facts, as the merchant has now to pay 1, 2, 3, 4, and even up to 12 fr. per ton, according to the nature of the goods, over and above what he had to pay before the quay was constructed.

The Commission in their Report admit that the Turkish Government had engaged and declared to the Ambassadors that the quay dues should not exceed what the merchants had to pay for shipping or landing goods before the construction of the quay. Why then should they now have to pay from 1 fr. to 12 fr. extra? The average quay rates on twelve important articles are now 9 fr. per ton, whilst in the original Tariff these articles only paid about 3 fr. 25 c. per ton, and then there was likewise a free custom-house quay.

Another misstatement of the Commission is that there has been a reduction in the rates of insurance, owing to the construction of the Smyrna quay. No such reduction has taken place.

The Commission likewise states that the quay has put a stop to smuggling! As to this we can only ask, as we did in our reply to Parnis Effendi's Report—"Has smuggling really decreased since the construction of the Smyrna quay?"

Her Majesty's Government, on the 18th April, 1877, consented to the retrocession of the free custom-house quay on certain conditions, the most important of which was that the existing Tariff of quay dues should be reduced to the satisfaction

of all parties, but we have shown that, instead of any reduction, the Tariff in question has been considerably increased, to the satisfaction, no doubt, of the Société des Quais, but to the very great detriment of commercial interests. Nor have any of the other conditions stipulated by Her Majesty's Government been fulfilled, as even the stench in the docks has only been partially removed.

Notwithstanding all this, however, and in violation of its solemn declarations and promises, the Turkish Government did do away with the free space in question, and this, too, at night, surreptitiously, under cover of darkness, without even giving notice of its intentions to Her Majesty's Ambassador. Surely such conduct cancels all previous negotiations, and fully justifies Her Majesty's Government insisting on a free custom-house quay being restored.

The recommendation of the Constantinople Commission, that another Commission be named by the Vali of Smyrna to reduce the quay dues on some few articles, is simply a ridiculous and preposterous proposal, as it entirely evades the actual question at issue, and thus endeavours to restrict them within the limits of the narrow views of its own members, with the evident pre-determination of deciding according to the wishes of those who appointed them, and in the interests of the favoured Société, well knowing that a Commission named here by the Vali of Smyrna would be equally submissive and complaisant without reference to the real merits of the case submitted to them. But we maintain that there is no question whatever which requires to be submitted to a Commission.

The 2nd Acte Additionnel is in direct opposition to all the solemn promises and written engagements of the Turkish Government, and a violation of the Capitulations and Treaties of Commerce between the Sublime Porte and the European Governments.

Our right to a free custom-house quay was decided over fourteen years ago, as proved by the 1st Acte Additionnel, admitted by the Société des Quais, and sanctioned by His Majesty the Sultan; a right enjoyed by every other port in the Empire, and we believe, as we have already said, by every port of the civilized world. We presume that the 2nd Acte Additionnel has never received the actual official sanction of His Majesty the Sultan, but, even if it had, we feel convinced that, when the matter is clearly represented to His Majesty, he would never allow the trade of the largest town in his Empire to be so unjustly sacrificed for the purpose of favouring certain private interests.

It is very remarkable that no allusion whatever is made in the Report of the Constantinople Commission to the monstrous clause 5 in the 2nd Acte Additionnel, authorizing the Société des Quais to levy quay dues on all goods landed or shipped in every part of the Bay of Smyrna, far beyond the boundaries of the quay. Evidently the Commission thought it their wisest course to pass it over in silence.

(Signed) A. O. CLARKE.
R. W. WHITTALL.
E. ESSAYAN.
ALEXANDER SIDI.
W. H. CADOUX.
ROBT. WILKIN.

Smyrna, August 17, 1881.

No. 87.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 91. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 80, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, inclosing copy of a Memorandum by a Committee of Smyrna merchants upon the proposition of the Porte on the subject of the Smyrna quays; and I approve your suggestion that two persons, respectively nominated by the Porte and Her Majesty's Embassy, should go into the figures in dispute, provided the Porte shall select a trustworthy person; and I authorize your Excellency to employ Major Trotter to represent Her Majesty's Embassy.

I also approve the language which you held to the Porte, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 88.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 108. Commercial.) (Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, November 14, 1881.

PORTUKAL EFFENDI, the Chief of the Constantinople Dounne, has been selected by the Porte to accompany Major Trotter to Smyrna for the purpose of ascertaining the exact facts in relation to the dues levied by the Quay Company.

These gentlemen will start next week.

No. 89.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 111. Commercial.)
Constantinople, November 20, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with the instructions conveyed in your despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 10th September last, I have authorized Major Trotter to proceed to Smyrna, in order to inquire into the figures in dispute with regard to the Tariff of the quays of that place.

The Ottoman Delegate named is Portukal Effendi, Director of the Customs at Constantinople.

These gentlemen left for Smyrna the 17th instant.

I transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of my instructions to Major Trotter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 89.

The Earl of Dufferin to Major Trotter.

Constantinople, November 17, 1881.

Sir,

IN a note dated the 14th April, 1877, the Sublime Porte informed Her Majesty's Embassy that Messrs. Dussaud had submitted to the Imperial Government certain proposals relative to the Smyrna quays, which offered great benefits to the country and to foreign trade, but which entailed the suppression of the 100 free pics, and asked whether, in view of the advantages offered by these proposals, they would not meet with any opposition on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy.

In reply, Mr. Jocelyn, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, addressed a note to the Sublime Porte of the 18th April, 1877, stating that Her Majesty's Government were willing to consent to the retrocession of the space, namely, 100 pics, left free of quay dues at Smyrna under the following conditions :—

1. That the existing Tariff of quay dues be reduced in such manner as shall satisfy all parties concerned.

2. That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the concession.

3. That the Sublime Porte engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the concession without restoring the present ones to the custom-house free of quay dues.

4. That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed dock the smell which, it is represented, frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

5. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the improvements which it has offered to accomplish.

Taking the arrangement indicated in this note as a starting-point for further negotiations, it is evident that nothing can be done until the facts of the case are ascertained.

On the one side is contended, on behalf of the Sublime Porte, that the demands made in Mr. Jocelyn's note have been complied with, and that there having been a reduction of 18 per cent. in this Tariff on behalf of the Quay Company, and a surrender of 12 per cent. on the part of the Imperial Government, the desired reduction has been arrived at.

On the other hand, it would appear, from the observations upon the scheme of the Sublime Porte by the merchants of Smyrna, that, so far from there having been any reduction in the quay dues, there has been an actual increase, amounting on some articles to as much as 100 per cent.

In order that the real truth with reference to these conflicting statements may be arrived at, a verbal and informal understanding has been arrived at between the British Embassy and the Sublime Porte, that a Representative from the Embassy and a Delegate on behalf of the Ottoman Government should proceed to Smyrna to inquire into the matter on the spot.

I have accordingly to request that you will go to Smyrna on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy to examine the figures in dispute.

Portukal Effendi, Director of the Imperial Customs at Constantinople, is the Agent nominated by the Sublime Porte. As he is a person of intelligence, and, from his position and experience, thoroughly conversant with questions of this nature, I trust that you will find in him a capable and useful coadjutor.

I should wish to remind you that the object of this Commission, in which you are about to take part, is merely to ascertain facts. It will, therefore, confine itself to this function, and its Report will not travel beyond the record thus indicated. This need not, however, hinder you from talking over the whole subject with Portukal Effendi, provided always that you do not in any way commit the Embassy in your communications. In any event, you will make a separate Report upon the whole case as it presents itself to your mind after you have duly investigated it.

I have made it distinctly understood at the Sublime Porte that it is only in the event of an arrangement being arrived at of the character sketched in Mr. Jocelyn's note that the claim to the 100 pics will be abandoned. In the event of the Ottoman Government failing to give Her Majesty's Embassy satisfaction in this respect, the British Government will be compelled to insist at all hazards upon the revindication of the undoubted rights of the English merchants to have free and unimpeded access to the custom-house at Smyrna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 90.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 122. Commercial.)
Foreign Office, November 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I APPROVE Major Trotter's employment on the inquiry relative to the Smyrna quay dues, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 111, Commercial, of the 20th instant, and also the instruction with which you furnished him, inclosed in the same despatch.

I have, at the same time, to call attention to Mr. St. John's Memorandum on this question of the 3rd August last, of which a copy was forwarded to you on the 9th of that month.

I am, &c.
(For Earl Granville).
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 91.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 119. Commercial. Extender.)
Constantinople, December 2, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Sublime Porte have appointed Portukal Effendi, the Chief of the Constantinople Dounnes, as Turkish Delegate to accompany Major Trotter to Smyrna, for the purpose of ascertaining the exact facts in relation to the dues levied by the Quay Company. Both these gentlemen have arrived in Smyrna.

I have already acquainted your Lordship by telegraph of the above appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 92.

Mr. Lee to Mr. Macdonald.

(Private.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 1, 1882.*

I AM desired by Sir Charles Dilke to inform you that Lord Granville has received from Mr. Gladstone a letter from yourself with regard to the purchase by an English Company of the Smyrna Quays, now owned by a French Company.

In reply to your request to be informed to what extent Her Majesty's Government would deprecate the failure or be satisfied with the success of the project, I am to express to you Sir Charles Dilke's regret that it would be contrary to the established rule of this Office to give any opinion with regard to a matter of this kind.

The interest of Her Majesty's Government, as such, is confined, in the present instance, to retaining for British shipping and traders the privileges at Smyrna to which they are entitled. I may, however, add that Sir Charles will at all times be glad to receive any information which you may be willing to forward to him as to the progress of the scheme.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. A. LEE.

No. 93.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111, Commercial, of the 20th November last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the joint Report of Major Trotter and Portukal Effendi, on the subject of the Smyrna Quay question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Smyrna, December 31, 1881.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 17th November last, I proceeded on that day to Smyrna, in company with the Délégué of the Sublime Porte, Portukal Michaël Effendi, the President of the "Conseil des Contributions Indirectes" at Constantinople. We reached Smyrna on the 19th November, and have been busily engaged up to date in the examination of the very complicated and intricate questions connected with the comparison of the old and new Tariffs of the Smyrna Quays.

I have the honour to submit, herewith, our joint Report on the subject.

There have been differences of opinion between us on certain points, which have been duly noted in the body of the Report, but the final result of our examination is as follows:—

The Délégué of the Sublime Porte makes the present Tariff show a reduction on the old, maximum to maximum, of 13·55 per cent., whereas I make the reduction to be 12·46 per cent.; but taking into consideration ulterior reductions that have been already made, and others that the Society have declared their intention of making and maintaining, we obtain a final resulting diminution, according to Portukal Effendi, of 21·54 per cent., or, according to my own calculations, 17·38 per cent.

These latter deductions could not, of course, be taken into account unless we were in possession of an authoritative declaration on the part of the Company that the aforesaid reductions should be considered binding in future, and I have accordingly much pleasure in transmitting herewith a copy of correspondence that has passed on this subject between my colleague and Mr. Élie Guiffray, one of the proprietors, and the local Director-in-chief of the "Société des Quais." In Mr. Guiffray's letter the necessary declaration is made. (*Vide* Inclosures 5 and 6.)

The complicated nature of the subject has forced us in certain cases to direct our attention to issues such as that of the contracts with the Steam Navigation Companies, which at first sight appear foreign to the actual discussion of the comparison of Tariffs;

but in point of fact our calculations would be of no practical value unless it be distinctly understood that the contracts between the "Société des Quais" and the Steam Navigation Companies should be brought to an end.

I shall have the honour to submit to your Excellency shortly a general Report on the whole question; but I venture here to state that, in my opinion, the result of our investigation has been such as to make it seem practicable for negotiations with the Porte to be reopened on the basis of the proposals contained in the Report of the Commission which was supplied unofficially to your Excellency by the Sublime Porte.

I cannot conclude this despatch without giving my testimony to the uprightness and fairness with which my colleague has assisted me in this difficult investigation. His position at the head of the Direction of the "Contributions Indirectes" has given us facilities for obtaining all the information we required from the Customs records, which it would otherwise probably have been impossible for us to procure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Report.

I.

LES Soussignés chargés respectivement par l'Ambassade Britannique et la Sublime Porte d'étudier et d'établir les réductions que présente le nouveau Tarif des Quais de Smyrne par rapport à l'ancien, se sont rendus à Smyrne et s'y sont livrés à un examen minutieux dont ils exposent la marche et le résultat dans le présent Rapport.

II.

Le premier Tarif est daté du 10 Décembre, 1867 (N.S.). Il a été mis à exécution à partir du 10 Juin, 1872, conformément à l'Article 4 du premier Acte Additionnel, et a cessé d'avoir force de loi le 1er Mai, 1880, date à laquelle a commencé l'application du nouveau Tarif actuellement en vigueur.

D'après le premier Acte Additionnel du 12 Rédjeb, 1285 (29 Octobre, 1868), l'ancien Tarif était applicable sur toute la longueur des quais faisant l'objet de la concession, à l'exception des 100 archines libres* devant la Douane, où tous les embarquements et débarquements pouvaient être effectués sans être astreints à aucun droit de quai; tandis que, en vertu du second Acte Additionnel du $\frac{6}{8}$ Mai, 1878, le nouveau Tarif est applicable d'une extrémité à l'autre des Quais de Smyrne, sans aucune solution de continuité.

Les Soussignés ont pris pour base de comparaison la traduction Française des deux Tarifs publiée à Smyrne, par les soins de la Société des Quais. Il ont eu soin de les comparer avec les copies des textes Turcs qui leur ont été fournies par le Ministère des Travaux Publics et la Direction des Contributions Indirectes à Smyrne.

III.

Ce qui frappe tout d'abord celui qui se livre à une comparaison des deux Tarifs c'est la diversité qui se manifeste souvent dans leur rédaction. Pour un grand nombre d'articles la définition et l'unité de mesure qui ont servi de base à l'établissement de la taxe sont entièrement identiques dans les deux Tarifs, et il n'y a pour ceux-là que la quotité des droits qui change.

Exemple:—

Figues et raisins—					
Ancien Tarif	..	..	..	..	1 piastre par quintal.†
Nouveau Tarif	..	..	..	..	½ .. ..

Étant donné la quantité, embarquée ou débarquée par les quais, la comparaison des deux Tarifs ne peut être, à l'égard de ces sortes d'articles, qu'une affaire simple de calcul, dont nul ne saurait contester l'exactitude. Nous les appellerons: articles uniformément définis.

Mais à côté de ceux-là se trouve un certain nombre d'articles dont les termes de comparaison ne sont point semblables: tandis que dans l'ancien Tarif la taxe a

* 100 archines = about 75 yards.—H. T.

† The quintal or kantar weighs 44 okes, *i.e.*, rather more than 1 English cwt.; 1 oke = 2·83 lb., avoirdupois 2 piastres is worth a little more than 2*d*.—H. T.

été généralement établie sur une unité quelconque de capacité, dans le nouveau ces articles ont été frappés d'après une unité de poids.

Exemple :—

Etain—					
Ancien Tarif	..	..	..	2	piastres par colis.
Nouveau Tarif	..	..	..	1½	" par quintal.*
Manufacture coton—					
Ancien Tarif	..	..	..	4	" par grande balle.
"	..	..	..	3	" par moyenne balle
"	..	..	..	2	" par petite balle.
Nouveau Tarif	..	..	..	4	" par balle de 6 quintaux.

Il est évident que pour savoir si le nouveau Tarif présente une diminution ou une aggravation sur l'ancien, et pour calculer l'importance de cette diminution ou aggravation, il faut non seulement connaître le poids des barils d'étain et des balles de manufacture de coton qui étaient généralement importés avant l'application du nouveau Tarif, mais encore, si les barils ou balles étaient de diverses dimensions et, par conséquent, de poids différents, la quantité respective de chaque dimension. Cela peut entraîner à des recherches fort laborieuses et longues, et si pour éviter ces recherches on se contentait d'une moyenne, d'après les renseignements fournis par les personnes même qui seraient les plus en état de les donner, la comparaison des deux Tarifs n'aurait pas le caractère de certitude absolue que possède celle des articles uniformément définis. Nous appellerons cette seconde catégorie : articles portant des définitions différentes.

Enfin, il y a une troisième catégorie qui comprend les articles non-dénommés que la Société des Quais avait et a encore le droit d'assimiler à ceux qui ont été spécifiés dans les Tarifs, en tenant compte de leur volume, poids, et valeur. À l'égard des articles qui composent cette dernière catégorie, il faudra examiner si l'assimilation a été juste. Ce point peut naturellement donner lieu à des appréciations diverses et introduit un nouvel élément de discussion dans la comparaison.

Une fois que l'assimilation sera reconnue bonne, le calcul ne présentera plus aucune difficulté, si l'article dénommé qui a servi de type porte la même définition dans les deux Tarifs, et se compliquera, au contraire, si l'article que l'on a choisi pour base porte des définitions différentes.

Pour ces motifs nous avons cru devoir présenter, séparément et en trois catégories distinctes, les marchandises qui ont été soumises aux droits de quais tant à l'importation qu'à l'exportation. Nous avons pensé qu'en séparant ce qui était absolument certain et au sujet duquel tout le monde était d'accord d'avec ce qui pouvait donner lieu à des controverses, nous aurons serré la question en litige et rendu la discussion et la solution plus facile.

IV.

Avant de procéder à l'examen détaillé des trois catégories désignées ci-dessus, nous croyons devoir expliquer pourquoi nous avons pris pour bases de comparaison non les quotités des taxes spécifiés dans les deux Tarifs, mais les recettes brutes qu'auraient fournies ces mêmes taxes pour les mêmes quantités de marchandises.

Nous avons pensé que la comparaison seule des droits donnerait des résultats erronés, parce que les charges du commerce pourraient être aggravées au moyen d'une augmentation des droits de 10 pour cent, seulement sur certains articles exportés ou importés sur une grande échelle, dans une proportion plus forte, qu'elles ne seraient diminuées par un dégrèvement de 50 pour cent sur d'autres articles qui ne font pas l'objet d'un commerce étendu. C'est pourquoi nous avons cru d'absolue nécessité de prendre les quantités importées ou exportées par les quais dans une année et de voir les recettes qu'elles auraient données d'après l'ancien Tarif si les 100 pics libres étaient supprimés, et ce qu'elles donneraient aujourd'hui d'après le Tarif en vigueur.

À cet effet nous avons préféré à toutes autres l'année financière Turque qui a couru depuis le 1er Mars, 1878, jusqu'à fin Février 1879, par la raison (1) que les droits de quais perçus sur les débarquements et embarquements de cet intervalle, ont été, de même que les quantités ou les poids, contradictoirement enregistrés par la Société des Quais et par la Direction de la Douane de Smyrne, en exécution des Articles 3 et 4 du premier Acte Additionel du 12 Rédjeb, 1285 ; (2) que la Société des Quais avait déjà préparé le relevé de cet intervalle, relevé sur lequel s'était surtout

* The quintal or kantar weighs 44 okes, i.e., rather more than 1 English cwt. ; 1 oke = 2·83 lbs. avoirdupois ; 1 piastre is worth a little more than 2d.—H. T.

fondé Parnis Effendi, Conseiller de la Sublime Porte, pour émettre l'opinion que le nouveau Tarif offrait une réduction de 18 pour cent sur l'ancien.

Ce relevé était dressé d'après les registres de la Douane, qui délivrait des bordereaux ou permis de deux couleurs différentes : l'une était destinée à tous les embarquements et débarquements par la partie libre, et l'autre aux mêmes opérations effectuées par les quais. La Société des Quais faisait indiquer par l'entremise de ses préposés sur les uns et les autres le nombre des colis, le poids en quintaux, et e montant des droits ; les bordereaux des quais constataient une perception réelle et effective, tandis que ceux de la partie libre ne montraient que le montant des droits de quais qui seraient perçus si les marchandises passant par cette partie n'étaient pas exemptées de ces droits. Ces bordereaux étaient d'après l'ordre des dates inscrits simultanément par l'Administration des Douanes et par la Société des Quais, dans des registres spéciaux qui devaient établir contradictoirement et à la fin de chaque mois le montant des droits perçus dans chacune des sections des quais ainsi que ceux dont la Société s'était dessaisie en acceptant les 100 archines libres. Mais la Société des Quais comme, d'ailleurs, la Douane, n'avaient pas songé alors à classifier les exportations et les importations d'après la nature des articles. Le relevé dressé par la Société pour l'année 1878-79 avait précisément pour objet de combler cette lacune ; mais comme ce travail n'avait pas en tous points sa contre-partie dans les registres de perception, nous avons pensé que quel qu'eût été le soin mis par la Société à rendre ce relevé exact, il pouvait contenir des erreurs qui influeraient plus ou moins sur le résultat que l'on aurait en vue.

Dans ces conditions nous avons pensé que nous n'avions de mieux à faire que d'examiner nous-mêmes minutieusement ce travail, de le contrôler au besoin par les registres de la Douane et de le soumettre à la critique de tous ceux qui seraient le plus à même de nous faire découvrir les erreurs qui pourraient s'y être glissées. Nous fîmes part de notre intention à M. Guiffray, représentant de la Société, qui, reconnaissant combien des statistiques de ce genre pouvaient être sujettes à des erreurs, demanda aussitôt à faire examiner de nouveau le relevé. Et quoique le travail corrigé et amendé qui nous fut présenté, en dernier lieu, par la Société, ne différât pas, quant à son résultat, sensiblement du premier, les rectifications apportées dans les détails ont donné sur un grand nombre de points satisfaction aux objections qui avaient été soulevées quant à l'exactitude du premier travail. C'est le second relevé que nous avons soumis à un examen détaillé.

Nous avons à exprimer nos vifs remercîments d'un côté à M. Tissot, Chef de Perception de la Société des Quais, qui, avec l'autorisation de la Direction, a mis à notre disposition tous les renseignements et documents que nous étions en droit de demander à la Société ; et de l'autre côté à Mr. Clarke, ancien négociant et un des principaux membres de la colonie Anglaise, qui nous a été présenté et recommandé comme la personne la plus à même de nous renseigner au sujet des Tarifs et des plaintes que ces Tarifs ont soulevées au sein du commerce. Tous deux nous ont assidûment et utilement assistés dans nos recherches.

Ce relevé renferme deux parties bien distinctes ; (1) exportations ou importations par les quais ; (2) exportations ou importations par les 100 archines libres.

La dernière est sans contredit la plus importante et a servi de fondement à l'autre lorsque le rapport du nombre des colis aux quintaux n'était pas indiqué à la partie des quais, ou avait besoin d'être contrôlé. Cette partie du relevé général annuel repose sur des relevés mensuels, dressés également par natures de marchandises, dont nous avons contrôlé les totaux de perception et de quintaux avec les totaux correspondants des registres de la Douane. La concordance des totaux une fois établie, il a fallu examiner si les quantités données par le relevé pour chaque article correspondait également avec les registres de la Douane. Une classification nouvelle de toutes les marchandises ne pouvant se faire que dans un laps de temps fort considérable, nous nous contentâmes de prendre au hasard quatre ou cinq articles, et nous cherchâmes si les quantités fournies en un mois pour chacun de ces articles par les registres de la Douane correspondaient aux quantités indiquées dans le relevé mensuel.

La seconde partie du relevé, celle qui présente les exportations et importations par les quais, repose également sur des relevés menseuls en ce qui concerne la deuxième section et sur des relevés annuels seulement pour la première et la troisième, le mouvement des marchandises étant peu considérable sur ces deux dernières. Nous avons contrôlé par les registres de perception des droits de Douane le rapport des quintaux aux colis, chaque fois que celui fourni par le relevé nous paraissait contestable ou était réellement contesté.

Dans beaucoup de cas le relevé dressé par la Société n'était pas une comparaison de l'ancien et du nouveau Tarif, mais une comparaison de la taxe maximum de l'ancien Tarif avec la taxe réduite actuellement perçue par elle. Nous avons pensé que notre travail devait démontrer la différence entre les maxima de l'ancien et les maxima du nouveau, et tenir séparément compte des réductions subséquentes au nouveau Tarif que la Société s'engagerait à maintenir.

C'est ainsi que des rectifications et modifications importantes ont été apportées au relevé, soit en ce qui concerne les articles dont les définitions n'étaient pas identiques dans les deux Tarifs, soit à l'égard de ceux qui, n'étant pas dénommés, ont dû être taxés par analogie.

Après ces observations générales nous allons exposer le résultat de nos examens pour chacune des trois catégories d'articles, soit à l'exportation, soit à l'importation, en nous étendant quelque peu sur les cas, d'ailleurs peu nombreux, sur lesquels nos opinions ont été partagées.

Nous exposerons les motifs qui nous ont respectivement guidés à exprimer des avis différents.

V.—Exportations.

1. *Articles uniformément définis dans les deux Tarifs.* (Tableau A.)

Cette catégorie, comme nous l'avons déjà dit, ne renferme aucun élément douteux. Elle présente une réduction en faveur du nouveau Tarif de 15·25 pour cent, sur un total de 783,083 piastres. À l'exception des peaux et de quelques animaux vivants, tous les articles ont été ou dégrevés ou soumis aux anciennes taxes.

2. *Articles différemment définis.* (Tableau B.)

Le nouveau Tarif présente une aggravation de 17·44 pour cent sur un total de 502,117·50 piastres, d'après l'ancien Tarif. Les articles qui ont donné le plus d'augmentation, sont le coton, la laine, les meubles, l'opium, les tapis, les vins et les colis renfermant des articles les plus variés appelés dans le relevé *quincaillerie*.

3. *Articles non-dénommés.* (Tableau C.)

Le nouveau Tarif présente une réduction de 28·32 pour cent sur un total de 325,947·50 piastres. Une divergence de vues s'est manifestée par rapport à l'article auquel doivent être assimilées les fèves, qui présentent une réduction de 24,396 piastres, dans le relevé. La Société soutient qu'elle était en droit de l'assimiler à *légumes secs* assujettis à une taxe de 2 piastres par sac dans l'ancien Tarif et de 1 piastre le quintal dans le nouveau. Elle a effectivement perçu les 2 piastres en 1872, première année des perceptions. Et si elle l'a réduite depuis et avant la fermeture des 100 archines libres à 6 paras par kilé,* taxe actuellement en vigueur, elle l'attribue à la nécessité où elle s'est trouvée d'attirer sur les quais un article que l'énormité du droit (2½ pour cent de la valeur), devait diriger sur la partie libre.

D'un autre côté, des négociants fort respectables ont avancé que les fèves étaient surtout exportées en Angleterre où elles servent exclusivement à l'alimentation des bestiaux; qu'elles étaient vendues à Londres dans le grand marché des céréales et qu'elles devaient être assimilées à *céréales* soumises dans l'ancien Tarif à un droit de 10 paras par kilé et à 6 paras également par kilé dans le nouveau Tarif (orge) ainsi que, d'ailleurs, la Société l'a fait dans son Tarif actuel. Le Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique a exprimé la même opinion.

Le Délégué Ottoman, tout en admettant que rien n'empêchait la Société d'assimiler les fèves aux céréales et que cette application aurait été plus équitable et plus en rapport avec la valeur de l'article, est d'avis qu'on ne pourrait légalement lui contester le droit de l'assimiler à *légumes secs*, attendu que le mot *kouboubah* du texte Turc du Tarif, ainsi que l'équivalent Français, *céréales*, qui a été adopté dans la traduction certifiée par le Drogmanat du Divan, ne peut s'appliquer à *fèves*,† et que si les fèves servent dans quelques pays à nourrir les bestiaux, dans d'autres, comme d'ailleurs, en Turquie, elles entrent dans l'alimentation des classes pauvres; qu'il y a bien d'autres produits agricoles qui servent à la nourriture des bestiaux, mais qui n'appartiennent pas moins à la catégorie des légumes.

* A kilé is a *measure* of capacity. Roughly speaking, about 4 kilés go to a sack of beans.—H. T.

† Voir le "Dictionnaire du Commerce et de Navigation," publié par Guillaumin, Paris; et "Tarif des Droits de Douane—Exportation," texte Français.

Une autre objection a été soulevée relativement au *pétrole* soumis à un droit de 20 paras par caisse dans le nouveau Tarif et *non-dénommé* dans l'ancien. À quel article de l'ancien Tarif devait-on l'assimiler? La Société des Quais l'avait taxé (en 1872) à 2 piastres par caisse (*comme provision*). Nous avons pensé que l'article *huile, 1 piastre par toulouma*,* offrait une meilleure analogie. Mais les touloums contiennent au moins deux fois plus d'huile qu'une caisse de pétrole ne contient de combustible. Le Major Trotter a été d'avis qu'on aurait dû fixer un maximum de 20 paras par caisse. Ce procédé a paru au Délégué de la Sublime Porte comme contraire à la règle générale adoptée en pareille matière, et devant entraîner de graves complications. Si l'on voulait imposer à la Société l'obligation de diviser les taxes dans certains cas, pourquoi ne lui reconnaîtrait-on pas dans certains autres le droit de doubler ou de tripler les taxes? La Société ne pouvait pas et ne devait pas créer de nouveaux droits. Lorsque le Tarif offre plusieurs types, le devoir de la Société consiste à choisir celui qui est le plus en rapport avec l'article non-dénommé, eu égard au *volume, poids, et valeur* (voir paragraphe 2 du nouveau Tarif).

En tenant compte de ces deux objections, la réduction présentée par le nouveau Tarif serait de 37·52 pour cent sur un total de 241,463 piastres.

Récapitulation. (*Vide* Inclosures 3 and 4.)

À l'exportation, le nouveau Tarif présente sur l'ancien une réduction de 359,134 piastres sur un total de 1,611,148 piastres, soit 22·29 pour cent.

D'après l'opinion du Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique, ce résultat devrait être rectifié comme suit:—

	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Tableau A	783,083·0	428,700·5
„ B	502,117·5	589,698·5
„ C	241,463·0	160,864·0
	1,526,663·5	1,169,263·0

Soit, une différence de 357,401 prs. sur un total de 1,526,663 piastres, ou 23·41 pour cent.

La Société des Quais a, dans la pratique, appliqué à l'égard de certains articles des taxes plus modérées que celles du nouveau Tarif. Et comme elle nous a déclaré, par l'entremise de son représentant (*vide* Inclosure 6), qu'elle entendait les maintenir et qu'elle n'avait aucune objection à ce qu'elles lui fussent imposées comme maximum, nous avons cru devoir en tenir compte spécial. Ces nouvelles taxes donnent une réduction ultérieure sur le second Tarif (voir Tableau E) de 114,220 piastres, ce qui, ajouté aux 359,134 piastres, porte le chiffre total des réductions actuelles à 473,354 piastres, soit 29·38 pour cent par rapport à 1,611,148 piastres, montant des perceptions fournies par l'ancien Tarif. (Voir la nomenclature des articles qui ont profité des réductions subséquentes au nouveau Tarif, Tableau E.)

Mais d'après l'opinion du Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique, on devrait défalquer des 114,220 piastres, la somme de 82,751 piastres fournie par les fèves; et alors les réductions ultérieures consenties par la Société seraient 31,469 piastres environ; ce qui, ajouté aux 357,401 piastres, donne un total de 388,870 piastres, soit une réduction de 25·34 pour cent sur un total de 1,527,663 piastres.

VI.—Importations.

1. *Articles uniformément définis.* (Tableau A[1].)

Le nouveau Tarif présente une réduction de 122,000 piastres, sur un total de 876,208 piastres, qu'aurait donné l'ancien Tarif, soit 13·92 pour cent.

Des articles qui ont fourni les plus fortes réductions sont les briques, le charbon de terre, les couleurs, les farines, le maïs, l'orge, les raisins secs, le sésame, les tuiles; les draps et lainages seulement présentent une aggravation notable.

* or *okâ*.

2. *Articles dont les Définitions varient.* (Tableau B².)

Le nouveau Tarif donne au lieu d'une réduction, une augmentation de 91,138.50 piastres, sur un total de 530,250 piastres, perçu d'après l'ancien Tarif, soit 17.18 pour cent. Les aggravations se sont surtout portées sur l'alcool, le beurre, la bière, le canevas, les manufactures en coton, les cotons bruts, les cuirs ouvrés, les quincailleries, les cotonnades et cotons filés, le sucre. Les articles qui ont le plus joui de réductions sont: les chiffons, les fromages, les légumes, le soufre, la vallonée brute. Nous croyons devoir observer ici que l'article *quincaillerie* a été pris dans le même sens que le mot Turc *khourdéyat*, qui comprend non seulement la quincaillerie proprement dite, mais encore tous objets divers, en quantités plus au moins restreintes, qui se sont trouvés emballés dans un même colis.

3. *Articles non-dénommés.* (Tableau C².)

Le nouveau Tarif présente un abaissement de 58,345, sur un total de 290,787 piastres, que donne l'ancien Tarif, soit 20·06 pour cent. Les réductions les plus fortes sont offertes par la chaux, le ciment, le plâtre, le pouzzolane, les graines de pavot, le pétrole. Nous avons surtout porté notre attention à ce que ces articles compris dans cette catégorie fussent dûment assimilés. Le pétrole n'étant pas dénommé dans l'ancien Tarif, la Société des Quais l'avait originairement assimilé à *comestibles*, 2 *piastres par caisse*. Malgré qu'elle ait perçu cette taxe pendant la première année des perceptions, nous avons pensé qu'il y avait dans l'ancien Tarif un autre article (l'huile, 1 p. par petit touloum) qui aurait pu être pris pour type, avec plus de justesse, en égard à la valeur du pétrole.

La Société des Quais a accepté cette rectification, et a porté au relevé 69,000 piastres environ pour l'ancien Tarif, au lieu de 138,000 piastres, indiqués dans le relevé originaire.

Toutefois, d'après l'opinion du Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique, le pétrole ne devrait donner aucune réduction, et les fèves seulement 203 piastres, pour les raisons que nous avons exposé plus haut. Il est même d'avis que les articles chaux grasse, le plâtre, le pouzzolane, que la Société s'est cru en droit d'assimiler à l'instar des ciments, à l'article du Tarif émeril, auraient dû être taxé à un chiffre maximum de 10 paras le quintal. Tout en reconnaissant que cet article est le seul qui puisse être pris pour type, il a opiné pour une taxe proportionnelle à la valeur. Ces altérations réduiraient la différence des deux Tarifs, en ce qui concerne cette troisième catégorie, à 7,110 piastres, sur 230,551 piastres, soit 2·97 pour cent. (Voir Inclosure 4.)

Récapitulation.

Suivant l'opinion du Délégué Ottoman, les deux Tarifs accusent dans leur ensemble, maximum à maximum, une différence de 89,207 piastres, sur un total de 1,697,245 piastres, soit une réduction de 5·25 pour cent en faveur du nouveau Tarif. Dans l'opinion du Délégué Anglais, la réduction doit être 37,970 piastres, sur un total de 1,646,009 piastres, soit 2.37 pour cent en faveur du nouveau Tarif.

Nous arrivons maintenant aux réductions dont la Société des Quais a, dans la pratique, fait bénéficier le commerce depuis la fermeture des 100 pics, et qu'elle s'est engagée à maintenir. (*Vide* Tableau E¹.) Ces réductions, qui s'élèvent à la somme de 150,249 piastres, sont données par (1) la chaux grasse, le plâtre, le pouzzolane et le lait; (2) par les chiffons; (3) les papiers d'emballage; (4) par les bois de construction de toutes espèces, pour lesquels la Société des Quais a adopté un Tarif spécial détaillé, mieux adapté aux besoins de ce genre de commerce que n'est le Tarif légal actuel; enfin (5) par les marchandises en transit qui seraient débarquées pour être de nouveau embarquées, sans qu'aucun changement ait été opéré dans leures emballages, marques, et poids. Ces marchandises auraient acquitté un double droit à leur débarquement et à leur réembarquement si l'on avait supprimé la partie libre tout en maintenant l'ancien Tarif; tandis qu'elles ne peuvent être assojetties, d'après le dernier paragraphe du nouveau Tarif, qu'à un demi droit unique, c'est-à-dire, au quart de ce que paient les marchandises ordinaires. Notons toutefois que la Société des Quais avait jusqu'ici donné à ce paragrapine une interprétation restreinte, justifiée, d'ailleurs, jusqu'à un certain point, par les termes dont s'étaient servi les rédacteurs du Tarif, et n'avaient reconnus comme marchandises de transit que les articles qui avaient été déclarés comme tels dans les manifestes. Nous avons fait observer que tel n'était pas l'esprit du Firman;

que les destinataires des marchandises à Smyrne étaient tout aussi en droit de qualifier leurs marchandises que les expéditeurs qui se trouvent en pays étranger; qu'on devait reconnaître même comme transit tout article apparemment débarqué pour la consommation locale auquel le propriétaire donnerait ultérieurment une autre destination, par la raison toute simple que si on lui refusait le bénéfice d'un demi droit, il n'aurait qu'à déclarer toutes ses importations comme transit et à ne payer les droits entiers que pour celles qui seraient vendues pour la consommation intérieure. La Société a reconnu la justesse de nos observations. Il nous a été impossible toutefois de calculer l'importance de toutes les marchandises qui, débarquées dans l'espace d'une année sur les quais, auraient été réexpédiées, sans qu'aucun changement ait été opéré dans leurs emballages, marques, et poids. Nous n'avons pu constater d'une manière exacte que la quantité des colis débarqués dans les entrepôts de la Douane et réexpédiés au dehors sans acquittement des droits de douane. Le nombre de ces colis a été 25,844 dans l'année, 1880; ce qui, d'après l'ancien Tarif, aurait approximativement donné une recette de 87,465 piastres—dont le quart seulement aurait été exigé d'après le nouveau Tarif si la Société avait agi suivant notre interprétation. (Voir Tableau F et G.)

Le Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique a été d'avis que des 150,249 piastres portés au Tableau F, comme réductions ultérieures au nouveau Tarif, on devrait rejeter celles qui concernent le lait. En déduisant 9,912 piastres, montant des réductions fournies par lait, et par petites planchettes, dont quelques-unes pèsent 1·oke la pièce, qui, d'après le Major Trotter, ne devaient pas être considérées comme planches, les réductions ultérieures au nouveau Tarif seraient de 140,307 piastres seulement, ce qui, ajouté aux 37,970 piastres, qui, d'après lui, est la différence des deux Tarifs, porterait l'ensemble des réductions à 178,277 piastres sur un total de 1,616,009 piastres; soit 10·83 pour cent, tandis que, d'après le Délégué de la Sublime Porte, cette différence serait de 4·11 pour cent.

Nous devons observer toutefois que si le relevé des exportations représente réellement les perceptions effectuées par la Société des Quais, celui des importations ne donne ce résultat que partiellement. La Société a passé avec les Compagnies à Vapeur du Lloyd, les Messageries Maritimes, du Khédive, d'Azizié, de Florio, de Fraissinet, de Fabre, et de Navigation Russe, des contrats par lesquels ces diverses Compagnies se sont engagées à verser à la Société des Quais :—

5 fr. pour débarquement et droits uniformes de quai sur toutes marchandises indistinctement, et par tonne de 1,000 kilog.

4 fr. par tonne de 1,000 kilog. sur marchandises en transit hors du port, transportées dans le port et *vice versâ* qui, faute de coïncidence de deux paquebots, devraient être mises à terre, en magasin, ou laissées sur mahonnes avec un délai maximum de quinze jours, débarquement et embarquement.

3 fr. 50 c. par tonne de 1,000 kilog. sur marchandises en transit dans le port pour y séjourner dans les conditions précitées, débarquement et embarquement.

3 fr. par tonne de 1,000 kilog. sur marchandises transbordées directement d'un paquebot sur un autre en faisant usage du matériel de la Société des Quais, que ces paquebots soient ou non dans le port.

2 fr. par tonne de 1,000 kilog. sur marchandises transbordées d'un paquebot sur un autre directement, bord-à-bord, sans faire usage du matériel de la Société des Quais.

25 centimes par groupe et objet de valeur.

Ainsi qu'on le voit par ce qui précède, la Société des Quais s'est obligée vis-à-vis de ces Compagnies à faire à ses risques et frais toutes les opérations de débarquement, et les Compagnies ont pris vis-à-vis de la Société des Quais l'engagement de percevoir des destinataires pour chaque tonne de marchandises importées, et sous peine de leur refuser la livraison de ces marchandises, diverses taxes qui comprennent non seulement les frais de débarquement, mais encore les droits de quai. Un nouveau Tarif contractuel privé a été ainsi substitué au Tarif légal, qui seul aurait dû être obligatoire.

Ce Tarif par tonne dans les cas mêmes où il ne dépasserait pas en moyenne les frais effectués pour le débarquement augmentés des droits de quais, soumet le contribuable à des droits de quai tantôt de trois fois plus considérables, et tantôt plusieurs fois plus légers, qu'il n'aurait acquittés si le Tarif légal avait été dûment appliqué. Ainsi, la Société se charge (droits de quais compris) de débarquer à la Douane une tonne de cocons ou de beurre étranger importée par les bateaux con-

traetants, moyennant 5 fr., ou 22 piastres, tandis qu'elle aurait pu exiger pour la même quantité, 58 piastres de droits de quai, plus 4 à 10 piastres que le négociant aurait à payer pour faire débarquer sa marchandise si le bateau n'a pas accosté aux quais, soit en tout 62 à 68 piastres.

D'un autre côté la Société exige 22 piastres pour une tonne de vallonée sauvage, laquelle, si ces contrats n'avaient pas existé, n'aurait à payer à la Société que 2 piastres 28 paras, plus 4 à 10 piastres comme frais de débarquement. D'après les informations qui nous ont été fournies par la Société des Quais, ces contrats ont été conclus pour leur terme d'une année; ils expireront tous du 30 Juin, 1882, au 31 Août, 1882, mais seront valables encore pour une autre année dans le cas où leur résiliation n'aurait pas été demandée par l'une des parties trois mois et un jour avant l'expiration. Quelque commode et simple que paraisse ce mode de taxation par tonne, nous sommes fermement convaincus de la nécessité de l'abolir. Il crée une inégalité de conditions fort grave, parce que généralement tous les bateaux Anglais, et beaucoup d'autres qui n'ont pas une service régulier, n'ont pas passé de contrats et ne paraissent pas disposés à en conclure; les marchandises transportées par ces bateaux se trouvent de ce fait soumises au régime du Tarif légal. En second lieu, il n'y a rien qui puisse assurer que les diverses taxes stipulées dans les contrats ne seraient pas augmentées à la demande de l'une des parties contractantes lors du renouvellement des conventions. Enfin, elles sont en opposition aux dispositions du Tarif, qui seul doit faire loi dans la matière, et donnent lieu contre la Société à un grand nombre de plaintes qu'il est de l'intérêt de la Société de ne pas susciter, parce que les entreprises privées d'utilité générale du genre de celle qui lui a été concédée, provoquent, même lorsqu'elles sont admirablement exécutées et prudemment dirigées, déjà assez de mécontentements pour qu'on s'abstienne de donner lieu à tous ceux qui ne sont pas absolument nécessités par les circonstances.

La Société des Quais nous a déclaré qu'elle s'est vu obligée de passer ces contrats, afin d'attirer les bâtiments sur les quais à l'époque où la partie libre existait, et, après la fermeture des 100 pics, pour vaincre la résistance de certains intérêts privés auxquels la création du port avait pu être préjudiciable.

Quels qu'aient été les motifs qui ont porté la Société à conclure ces arrangements avec les Compagnies de Navigation, il est certain que ces motifs n'existent plus aujourd'hui et que la Société des Quais doit être invitée en temps opportun à se libérer de ses engagements vis-à-vis des Compagnies, et à revenir au régime du Tarif, qui est seul régulier.

En examinant le relevé des importations, nous avons tenu compte non des taxes effectivement perçues sur les articles importés par les bâtiments contractants, mais de celles qui auraient dû être perçues d'après les deux Tarifs.

VII.—Conclusion.

1. D'après l'opinion du Délégué de la Sublime Porte le nouveau Tarif présente sur l'ancien, maxima à maxima:—

	Piastres.	
Total ancien Tarif	3,308,391	
Total nouveau Tarif	2,850,053	
Réduction	448,341	Soit, 13·55 pour cent.
Réductions ultérieures ..	264,469	
Total Réductions	712,810	

ce qui, par rapport aux perceptions totales d'après l'ancien Tarif, donne une réduction de 21·54 pour cent.

Suivant l'opinion du Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique, le nouveau Tarif présente sur l'ancien maxima à maxima:—

	Piastres	
Total ancien Tarif	3,172,672	
Total nouveau Tarif	2,777,301	
Réduction	395,371	Soit, 12·46 pour cent.
Réductions ultérieures ..	171,777	
Total Réductions	567,148	

ce qui, par rapport aux perceptions totales d'après l'ancien Tarif, donne une réduction de 17·88 pour cent.

Quelques erreurs qui aient pu se glisser dans les détails de notre travail, nous avons la conviction qu'elles ne doivent pas être de nature à influer sensiblement sur le résultat ci-haut, que nous présentons comme le fruit d'un examen consciencieux et détaillé.

Nous devons encore faire observer que les réductions étant bien plus fortes à l'exportation qu'à l'importation, la différence entre les deux Tarifs pourrait être accrue ou diminuée suivant que dans l'année les exportations ou les importations auraient été plus actives.

2. La Société des Quais devra être obligée avant le 31 Mars, 1882, à ne pas renouveler les contrats conclus avec les Compagnies de Navigation à Vapeur; à encaisser elle-même et directement tous les droits de quai qu'elle est autorisée à percevoir par le Tarif et ce contre des récipissés portant le montant de la taxe et l'unité qui a servi de base à la perception, ainsi qu'il se pratique actuellement à l'égard des marchandises importées par les bateaux non-contractants.

3. Faire entrer dans le corps du Tarif en vigueur les droits que la Société des Quais applique actuellement aux articles non-dénommés et dont l'assimilation aura été reconnue juste et régulière; de manière que le Tarif prévoie tous les cas qu'une expérience de dix ans a mis en évidence et que la Société se trouve le moins possible dans la nécessité d'appliquer des taxes *ad valorem*. Les droits établis par analogie ne devront jamais dépasser ceux qui ont servi de base aux relevés ci-annexés.

On devra également indiquer nettement les cas dans lesquels les marchandises pourront jouir du demi droit de transit; et modifier les taxes des articles d'après les réductions que la Société s'est engagée à maintenir, ainsi que celles des articles qui profiteront de l'abandon des 12 pour cent revenant au Gouvernement dans les cas où cette part des recettes brutes serait employée à abaisser les droits de quai.

4. Enfin obliger la Société à donner la plus grande publicité possible au Tarif détaillé et clair qui servit à élaborer.

(Signé) HENRY TROTTER, *Major, Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique.*

MICHAËL PORTUGAL, *Président du Conseil des Contributions Indirectes.*

Smyrne, le 29 Décembre, 1881.

Inclosure 3 in No. 93.

Récapitulation.—Importation et Exportation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879, selon les Calculs du Délégué de la Sublime Porte.

	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Importation.		
Tableau A[1]	876,208·25	754,208·50
Tableau B[1]	330,250	621,388·50
Tableau C[1]	290,787·25	232,441·75
	1,607,245·50	1,608,038·75
	1,608,038·75	
Différence	89,206·75	
(Soit une différence en moins de 5·25 pour cent.)		
Exportation.		
Tableau A	788,083	428,700·50
Tableau B	502,117·50	589,698·50
Tableau C	326,947·50	233,615
	1,611,148	1,252,014
	1,262,014	
Différence	369,134	
(Soit une différence en moins de 22·29 pour cent.)		

RÉCAPITULATION GÉNÉRALE.

Importation	1,607,245·50	1,608,038·75
Exportation	1,611,148	1,252,014
	3,308,393·50	2,860,052·75
	2,860,052·75	
Réduction présentée par le nouveau Tarif par rapport à l'ancien 13·55 pour cent	448,340·75	
Réductions ultérieures sur nouveau Tarif. Importation	150,340·50	*Vide* Tableau E[1]
Idem. Idem. Exportation	114,220	*Vide* Tableau E
	712,810·25	

Ce qui, par rapport aux perceptions totales d'après l'ancien Tarif, soit : 3,308,393·50 piastres, donne une réduction de 21·54 pour cent.

Inclosure 4 in No. 93.

RÉCAPITULATION montrant les Corrections du Délégué de l'Ambassade Britannique.

	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.
IMPORTATION.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Tableau A[1]	876,208·25	754,208·50
Tableau B[1]	530,250	621,088·50
Tableau C[1]	*239,561*	*232,741·75*
	1,646,669	1,608,038·75
	1,608,038·75	
Différence	*37,970*	
(Soit une différence en moins de *2·37 pour cent.*)		
EXPORTATION.		
Tableau A	785,083	426,700·50
Tableau B	502,117·50	580,698·50
Tableau C	*241,462*	*150,864*
	1,526,662·50	*1,169,263*
	1,169,263	
Différence	*357,401*	
(Soit une différence en moins de *23·41 pour cent.*)		

RÉCAPITULATION GÉNÉRALE.

Importation	*1,646,669*	1,608,038
Exportation	*1,526,663*	*1,169,263*
	3,172,672	*2,777,301*
	2,777,301	
Réduction par le nouveau Tarif par rapport à l'ancien, *12·46 pour cent* ..	*395,371*	
Réductions ultérieures sur nouveau Tarif. Importation	*140,308*	
Idem. Idem. Exportation	*31,469*	
Total réduction	*567,150*	

Ce qui, par rapport aux perceptions totales d'après l'ancien Tarif, soit : *3,172,672* piastres, donne une réduction de *17·88 pour cent.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 93.

Portugal Michaël Effendi to M. Guiffray.

Smyrne, le 28 Décembre, 1881.

Monsieur,

NOUS allons bientôt terminer notre travail concernant les réductions que présente le nouveau Tarif par rapport à l'ancien.

Ces réductions peuvent se diviser ainsi qu'il suit :—

1. Réductions que présentent les maxima du nouveau Tarif par rapport aux maxima de l'ancien Tarif. Ces réductions ne sauraient être considérées comme réelles qu'en tant que la Société reconnaîtra pour elle l'obligation de maintenir à l'égard des articles non-dénommés les mêmes types d'assimilation que ceux indiqués dans ses relevés.

2. Réductions ultérieures sur le nouveau Tarif consenties par la Société. Vous voudrez bien me mettre à même de dire à mon Gouvernement que la Société accepte les taxes ci-dessous comme maximum qu'elle ne devra pas dépasser :—

		Prs. p.
Chaux grasse	Par quintal	0 05
Chiffons	"	0 15
Papier d'emballage	"	1 00
Pétrole	Par caisse	0 10
Plâtre	Par quintal	0 05
Pouzzolane	"	0 03
Lait	Par colis	0 20
Bois, planches, poutres, et poutrelles	Suivant Tarif spécial.	
Fèves	Par kilé	0 06
Figues, refus, pour distillation	Par quintal	0 15

3. Différence entre un demi droit et un droit double qu'auraient acquitté les marchandises en transit d'après l'ancien Tarif. Jusqu'à présent la Société des Quais n'a fait jouir de ce demi droit que les marchandises qui étaient déclarées pour transit dans les manifestes. Nous croyons que cette interprétation restreinte, justifiée, d'ailleurs, jusqu'à un certain point par les termes dont se sont servis les rédacteurs du Tarif, est contraire à l'esprit du Firman; que les destinataires à Smyrne sont tout aussi en droit de qualifier leurs marchandises ou de déterminer leur destination que les expéditeurs à l'étranger; qu'on doit reconnaître même comme transit tout article apparemment débarqué pour la consommation locale, et auquel le propriétaire donnerait ultérieurement une autre destination en tant que cet article ne serait pas sorti de la Douane et serait réembarqué sans qu'il ait été opéré aucun changement dans son emballage, ses marques, ou son poids; par la raison toute simple que si on lui refusait le bénéfice d'un demi droit, le négociant n'aurait qu'à déclarer toutes ses importations comme transit et à ne payer les droits entiers que pour celles qui seraient vendues pour la consommation intérieure. C'est ainsi, d'ailleurs, que nous appliquons une disposition des Règlements Douaniers, qui définit les marchandises de transit et qui est conçue exactement dans les mêmes termes que le paragraphe correspondant du Tarif de la Société des Quais.

Vous voudrez bien me dire si la Société admet la justesse de nos observations et si elle est disposée à ne taxer dorénavant que d'un demi droit toute marchandise débarquée à la Douane ou sur les quais et qui serait réembarquée sans qu'aucun changement ait été opéré dans leur emballage, marque, et poids.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) MICHAËL PORTUGAL,
Président du Conseil des Contributions Indirectes.

Inclosure 6 in No. 93.

M. Guiffray to Michaël Portugal Effendi.

Société des Quais de Smyrne.

Excellence,

JE viens de recevoir votre lettre en date du 28 Décembre courant, m'indiquant que vous êtes au terme de votre mission et les points sur lesquels vous désirez avoir l'assentiment de la Société des Quais, afin que votre travail soit juste dans ses

résultats chiffrés et devienne indiscutable par le fait de notre affirmation concernant certaines réductions que la Société des Quais avait accordées au commerce de son propre chef et sans se trouver sous la pression d'aucune obligation.

J'ai l'honneur de répondre aux trois questions que vous me posez :—

1. La Société considérera comme obligatoire pour elle d'adopter les maxima qu'elle avait établis comme bases de comparaison entre l'ancien et le nouveau Tarif dans les Tableaux qu'elle a dressés et présentés relativement à l'Exercice 1878-79 concernant les articles qui, non-dénommés, ont été assimilés par ses soins.

2. La Société adoptera comme maxima les taxes suivantes appliquées aux articles ci-dessous particulièrement dénommés :—

		Prs. p
Chaux grasse	Par quintal	0 05
Chiffons	„	0 15
Papier d'emballages	„	1 00
Pétrole	Par caisse	0 10
Plâtre	Par quintal	0 05
Pozzolane	„	0 03
Lait	Par colis	0 20
Bois, planches, poutres, et poutrelles	Suivant le Tarif spécial qui vous a été remis *ad hoc*.	
Fèves	Par kilé	0 06
Figues, refus, pour distillation	Par quintal	0 15
Raisins secs, noir et refus, pour distillation	„	0 15

3. Toutes les marchandises qui seront débarquées en douane et qui, sans en être sorties et sans avoir subi aucunes modifications ni dans leurs marques, ni dans leurs poids, ni dans leurs emballages, seront réembarquées dans un délai maximum de trois mois, seront considérées par la Société des Quais comme marchandise en transit et ne paieront qu'un seul demi-droit de quai. Quant aux marchandises débarquées en dehors de la douane sur une partie quelconque des quais, dans les conditions générales précitées pour celles mises en douane, il est difficile que la Société puisse adopter à leur égard une mesure identique; parce que aucune marchandise ne peut séjourner plus de vingt-quatre heures sur une voie qui sert à tout le monde et qui serait encombrée bien vite si on accordait de pareilles tolérances.

S'il était fait quelques exceptions à cette règle générale ce ne serait qu'en échange d'un droit de stationnement dont la Société frapperait la marchandise restée ainsi sur le quai plus de vingt-quatre heures, afin de ne pas encourager l'encombrement par l'impunité; et encore faudrait-il, pour que cette marchandise fût considérée en transit par la Société des Quais, que le propriétaire eut fait auprès des employés de cette Société et au moment ou avant le débarquement une déclaration précise et formelle.

Je ferai observer à votre Excellence que j'avais accepté verbalement toutes ces modifications devant le Major Trotter, Délégué Spécial de l'Ambassade Britannique, et devant votre Excellence. Cet échange de correspondance me paraissait inutile, mais puisque vous l'avez désiré je ne m'y refuse pas, et je confirme mes paroles, à savoir: que l'acceptation de toutes ces modifications (celle relative au transit exceptée) est soumise au réglement définitif de toutes les difficultés et de toutes les questions pendantes entre le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et la Société des Quais.

Du reste, tout en ayant accepté ces modifications sous la réserve précédente et dans le but faciliter une entente complète entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade Anglaise, la Société des Quais a la conviction que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman lui en tiendra compte dans les arrangements à intervenir.

Je prie, &c.
(Pour la Société des Quais de Smyrne),
(Signé) E. GUIFFRAY.

Enclosure 7 in No. 93.

(Tableau A.)—Exportation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Définitions sont identiques dans l'Ancien et le Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quantités.	Quais.			Parie Libre.		Total Général des Quinaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.		Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Total Général Ancien Tarif.	Total Général Nouveau Tarif.
				Piastres.	Prs. P.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.
Amandes	Okes	Kilé	325	30 50	2 00	1,001	1,373·50	2,011	1,003
Abricots	„	„	251	175·50	70 00	„	„	175·50	141
Ails	Tête	Tête	4	40	10 00	„	„	40	32
Anchois	Caisse	Caisse	3	3	1 00	„	„	3	0·50
Blé	Kilé	Kilé	8,691	2,852·75	8 41	1,059·25	1,887·50	3,912	3,833·50
Blanc de céruse et pétilleux	Quintal	Quintal	501	4,105	8 41	„	1,169	4,105	3,003·50
Bois de teinture et pétilleux	Okes	Kilé	15,020	187	5 00	350	„	537	2,148
Café	Okes	Kilé	5,117	940·50	5 00	6,147	6,829	9,976·50	693
Cannelle Batavia ..	Okes	Kilé	11·50	2·50	5 00	25·75	220	102·50	6,491
Cannelle	Okes	Kilé	„	1·5	5 00	„	„	220	51·25
Cannelle	Okes	Kilé	„	220	5 00	„	„	220	440
Cannelle	Okes	Kilé	„	205	5 00	„	„	205	82
Cannelle	Okes	Kilé	33	337	5 00	„	„	337	168·50
Cire	Okes	Kilé	5,420	9	5 00	„	„	9	674
Clous	Okes	Kilé	„	133·25	5 00	1,191	1,325·50	1,325·50	1,197
Cochenille ..	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	26	13·50	13·50	1,193·75
Coques-de-Levant	Okes	Kilé	7	1·50	5 00	3,360	1,680	1,681·50	1,843·75
Cordages	Okes	Kilé	60	60	5 00	60	60	120	60
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	6	3	5 00	19	19	22	10
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	134	67	5 00	6,914	10,630	10,697	35
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	„	„	„	10,665
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	1,350	675	5 00	235·50	10,000·50	10,675·50	11,448
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	3,080	1,540	5 00	4,417·75	10,832·50	14,750·25	5,337·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	838·50	140,761·50	140,761·50	392·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	„	29,573	29,573	6,110
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	„	3,666	3,666	460
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	137	68·50	5 00	4,931	2,831	2,899·50	285·25
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	1,761·50	769	769	274
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	1,650	825	5 00	„	„	825	274
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	„	„	„	8
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	25,200	12,600	5 00	29,193	„	41,793	13,060
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	„	„	5 00	„	„	„	33·75
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	1,954·75	1,954·75	5 00	10,000·50	10,000·50	10,000·50	22,831
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	89,859·50	89,859·50	5 00	10,000·50	29,832·50	140,761·50	10
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	21,232	10,616	5 00	11,000·50	29,573	29,573	21,441·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	9,056	4,528	5 00	3,666	3,666	3,666	116,761·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	5,916	2,958	5 00	3,912	14,931	17,889	16,230·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	4,586	2,293	5 00	670	1,761·50	4,054·50	4,673
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	1,516	758	5 00	„	„	758	2,279·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	7,616	3,701·50	5 00	2,221	6,393·25	6,606·50	337
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	261	130·50	5 00	„	„	130·50	3,303·50
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	3	1·50	5 00	„	„	1·50	9,864·25
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	1,777	888·50	5 00	1,033·50	1,740	2,628·50	1,603
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	64,231	32,115·50	5 00	7,303·50	18,951·50	50,067	30
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	32,841	16,420·50	5 00	4,996	3,305	19,725·50	25
Cuivre	Okes	Kilé	116	58	5 00	„	„	58	2,821
Papier d'emballage	Okes	Kilé	„	„	2 00	„	„	„	158
								20,382·75	32,329·50
								12·50	50
								5,292	3,307

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pes. p.	Pes. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Peaux brutes	Balle	Quintal	172	3 00	1 20	516	665·50	437	2,853	8,559	2,851	6,659	9,075	10,689·50	7,073
" ouvrées	"	"	56	2 00	3 00	112	312	104	"	"	"	"	112	312	104
Planches diverses	"	Spécial	"	"	"	893·50	893·50	2,397	"	"	"	"	893·50	893·50	2,397
Plomb	Tarif	Quintal	"	0 20	0 20	73·75	73·75	147·50	"	1,095·50	1,095·50	2,191	1,169·25	1,169·25	2,338·50
Poissons salés, grand baril	Quintal	Baril	232	2 00	2 00	464	464	335	1,947	3,891	3,894	2,159·50	4,355	4,358	2,494·50
Perles	Baril	Tête	2	5 00	1 00	10	2	3	"	"	"	"	10	2	3
Pourpre, poudre de	Tarif	Spécial	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5,810·75	5,810·75	9,242
Racines sèches	Quintal	Quintal	"	1 00	0 20	41,592	20,694	11,332	"	235,917	117,993·50	235,817	277,239	138,619·50	277,239
Le plume, cassie	Caisse	Sac	227	2 00	2 00	454	454	362	1,219	2,436	2,436	2,167	2,890	2,890	2,403
Riz	Sac	Colis	635	1 00	1 00	635	635	1,097	11,962	11,962	11,962	10,865	12,597	12,597	21,512
Sanguins	Colis	Caisse	207	1 00	1 00	207	207	207	"	"	"	"	207	207	207
Scammonée	Caisse	Tête	52	1 00	1 00	52	52	43	33	33	33	23·50	85	85	66·50
Soie	Tête	Colis	77,841	0 20	0 10	38,672	19,336	31,641	142,579	71,289·50	35,644·75	64,851	109,961·50	54,980·75	96,492
Tabac	Colis	Balle	702	2 00	0 20	1,110	332·50	810	5,145	10,290	2,753·50	7,281	11,700	2,925	8,100
Toiles étrangères	Balle	Ballot	650	2 00	2 00	1,320	1,320	787	6,333	19,666	19,666	9,030	20,986	20,986	9,817
Tombeki	Ballot	Mille	126,280	5 00	5 00	6,314	631·50	3,273	"	"	"	"	6,314	631·50	3,273
Vermicelle	Mille	Ballot	330	2 00	2 00	660	660	393	"	"	"	"	660	660	393
Voitures	Ballot	Pce. caisse	139	2 00	2 00	278	278	185	"	"	"	"	278	278	185
Zinc	Pce. caisse	Pièce	15	10 00	10 00	150	150	106	"	"	"	"	150	150	106
	Pièce	Quintal	"	0 20	0 20	13·50	13·50	27	"	"	"	"	13·50	13·50	27
Totaux	"	"	"	"	"	187,306·75	99,343·25	181,317·25	"	325,319·25	249,333·25	519,050·50	783,883	425,760·50	730,017·75

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau B.)—EXPORTATION du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Définitions varient dans l'Ancien et le Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pes. p.	Pes. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Acier	Colis	Quintal	13	2 00	2 00	26	27	13·50	690	1,380	1,094	847	1,406	1,721	850·50
Beurre étranger arrive généralement par grands barils et est généralement réexpédié par petits colis	Colis, petit.	"	21	1 00	3 00	21	31·50	10·50	"	"	"	"	21	31·50	10·50
Bière, grand baril	Baril	Tarif	109	2 00	3 00	218	327	229	"	"	"	"	218	327	229
Beurre petit	Colis	Quintal	96	1 00	1 20	96	150	100	"	"	"	"	96	150	100
Biscuits	"	"	322	2 00	0 20	644	161	322	1,199	2,399	465·50	931	3,024	626·50	1,253
Cassias	Balle	"	139	3 00	1 20	477	327	218	749	2,247	3,186·25	3,137·50	2,141	5,563·25	3,575
Chiffons	"	"	2,606	3 00	0 20	7,818	5,211	10,422	"	"	"	"	7,818	5,211	10,422
Cire	Colis	"	76	2 00	2 00	152	232	116	2,057	4,174	5,753	2,870·50	4,326	5,985	2,992·50
Cuirs	Balle	"	91	3 00	3 00	273	327	109	"	"	"	"	273	327	109
Cassia	Ballot	"	121	2 00	1 00	242	182	182	1,590	3,194	2,434	2,434	3,440	2,616	2,616
Cardamom	Colis	"	1,537	3 00	1 20	4,611	6,510	4,340	32,712	68,136	100,785·75	67,190·50	72,147	107,295·75	71,530·50
Coton	Balle	"	99	2 00	1 20	198	339	226	1,539	5,078	3,885	2,570	5,276	4,194	2,796
Cuirs bruts	"	"	47	2 00	3 00	94	70·50	47	"	"	"	"	94	70·50	47
Dragu	Colis	B. de 2 qx.	4	2 00	1 20	8	11·25	7·50	886	732	741	491	740	752·25	501·50
Emit	"	Quintal	44	2 00	0 20	88	44·50	89	"	"	"	"	88	44·50	89
Ferraille	"	"	16	2 00	2 00	32	32	14·25	"	"	"	"	32	32	14·25
Fourrures	"	Tonlum	215	3 00	0 20	423	154	308	1,244	2,490	819·50	1,639	2,916	973·50	1,947
Fromages	"	Quintal	241	2 00	1 00	482	241	321	9,602	19,216	15,152·50	15,152·50	15,698	15,460·50	15,160·50
Fruits secs	"	"	693	2 00	2 00	1,386	1,386	717	599	1,199	1,380	1,624	2,585	2,766	1,713
Gilet	"	Sac	686	2 00	2 00	732	1,374	687	1,780	3,560	6,585	3,292·50	4,292	7,952	3,979·50
Gomme indigène et exotique	"	Quintal	836	2 00	2 00	732	1,374	687	"	5,912·75	5,912·75	5,247	36,072·75	36,072·75	48,607
Huile	"	"	"	0 20	0 20	32,160	32,160	44,880	"	"	"	"	10,233	20,466	13,441
Laine	"	Quintal	"	"	"	"	"	"	256	774	1,545	1,032	774	1,032	1,195
Légumes frais	"	Balle	3,157	3 00	1 20	9,450	18,918	12,612	1,274	2,542	971	1,212	2,874	1,092·50	2,195
Légumes secs	"	Colis	165	2 00	0 20	332	121·50	243	7,703	15,410	14,094	14,094	10,347	14,910	14,910
Légumes verts	"	"	465	2 00	1 00	930	465	816	"	"	"	"	1,822	"	969
Manufactures coton	"	Petit colis	255	2 00	"	1,822	"	803	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	Colis moyen	491	3 00	3 00	1,473	"	756	3,035	3,105	3,397	6,295	10,578	10,171·75	7,051
" 61, laine, et coton.	"	B. de 3 qx.	"	"	"	"	250·75	"	12,980	38,940	33,128·50	24,449	38,940	33,128·50	25,419
Marbres	Tarif	B. de 2 qx.	1,188	"	"	356·75	"	2,607	5,592	504·25	850·25	2,225·50	1,061	1,061	4,832·50
Meubles	"	Spécial	654	4 00	0 10	2,616	3,924	822	3,360	13,470	20,214	2,681	16,092	24,138	3,503
Nattes ordinaires	Colis moyen	Caisse	700	2 00	4 00	14	28	16·50	"	"	"	"	14	28	16·50
Olives	Colis	Cent	13·50	2 00	0 20	27	13·50	27	"	"	"	"	27	13·50	27
Opium	"	Quintal	880	2 00	2 00	1,760	1,796	1,107	3,155	6,316	26,146	3,711	8,076	33,942	4,821
Poix	Baril	Caisse de 80 chaque	10	2 00	1 20	20	22·50	15	"	"	"	"	20	22·50	15
Quincaillerie	Colis	Quintal	700	2 00	2 20	1,400	1,695	678	10,810	21,620	37,300	14,920	23,030	38,993	15,595
Résine	Baril	"	4	2 00	2 00	8	11	7	"	"	"	"	8	14	7
Savons	Colis	"	64	2 00	1 00	128	74	74	989	1,936	1,357·50	1,352·50	2,064	1,451·50	1,451·50
Soie et bourre de soie	Balle	"	3	3 00	3 00	9	9	3	"	"	"	"	9	9	3
Soufre	Sac	"	434	1 00	0 20	434	130·50	391	7,907	7,907	3,477·75	5,955·50	8,341	3,668·25	7,346·50

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quels.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pres. p.	Pres. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Spiritueux alcool	Baril	B. de 80 oq.	861	2 00	2 00	1,722	1,172	1,333	1,054	2,108	2,850·50	2,591·50	3,830	4,322·50	3,920·50
Sucre	Sac	Quintal	309	2 00	1 20	618	825	550	4,969	9,938	12,105	8,270	10,556	13,230	8,820
Tapis	Balle	"	893	3 00	3 00	2,571	2,157	2,519	1,687	5,061	14,250	4,750	7,635	21,907	7,269
Vallonée travaillée	Quintal	"	"	0 10	0 10	59,256	59,256	237,024	"	60,548·75	60,548·75	242,195·25	119,804·75	119,804·75	479,219·25
" brute	"	"	"	0 10	0 06	19,752	11,851	79,008	"	20,183	12,109·75	80,731·75	39,935	23,960·75	159,739·75
Vin, grand baril	Colis	Baril	2,364	2 00	3 00	4,728	7,092	5,318	5,375	10,750	16,125	13,317	15,478	23,217	18,635
Vinaigre	Colis	Quintal	3	2 00	1 00	6	6	6	"	"	"	"	6	6	6
Totaux	"	"	"	"	"	158,914·75	178,381·25	108,103·25	"	343,202·75	416,317·25	357,611·50	502,117·50	589,698·50	945,714·75

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau C.)—Exportation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles non-dénommés assimilés d'après le Paragraphe 2 du Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quels.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pres. p.	Pres. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Allumis	Balle	Quintal	514	3 00	0 20	1,632	1,273·50	2,517	1,234	3,702	1,294	2,588	5,334	2,567·50	5,105
Alun	Baril	"	"	2 00	0 20	"	"	"	253	506	322	644	506	322	644
Barils vides	Pièces	Pièces	1,297	0 10	0 10	324·25	324·25	472	1,823	455·75	455·75	651	780	780	1,303
Caisses vides, petites, pour fruits	Cent	Cent	35,803	2 20	2 20	895	895	1,941	"	"	"	"	895	895	1,844
Caviar	Baril	Baril	59	4 00	4 00	236	236	118	453	1,812	1,812	1,137·50	2,048	2,048	1,285·50
Céréales diverses	Kilô	Kilô	6,079	0 10	0 05	1,669·75	1,002	3,222	"	"	"	"	1,669·75	1,002	3,222
Chaux	Quintal	Quintal	"	0 20	0 10	123	61·50	246	"	"	"	"	123	61·50	246
Chaux hydraulique	"	Sac	401	0 10	0 10	89·75	100·25	359	"	"	"	"	89·75	100·25	359
Ciment	"	Quintal	"	0 20	0 10	91	49	196	"	3,976	1,988	7,952	4,074	2,037	8,148
Divers	Colis	Colis	58,399	"	"	8,872·50	8,872·50	14,170·75	"	"	"	"	8,872·50	8,872·50	14,170·75
Epices	"	"	35	1 00	1 00	35	35	61	1,609	1,609	1,609	1,638	1,644	1,644	1,699

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quels.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pres. p.	Pres. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Drogueries	Colis	Colis	124	2 00	2 00	248	248	132	2,502	5,338	5,338	4,919·50	5,586	5,586	5,051·50
Fèves (3565, 210,812)	"	Quintal	52,703	2 00	1 00	105,406	80,329	80,329	23,850	17,669	39,341	30,341	123,466	128,670	128,670
Graines de pavot	"	"	102,532	0 20	0 20	51,226	19,796	30,362	59,079	29,539·50	11,413	22,826	80,805·50	31,209	62,418
Graines de coton	"	Balle	2,712	2 00	0 10	4,344	675·75	3,503	626	1,252	351·50	1,003·50	5,596	1,127·25	4,506·50
Liqueurs	Caisse	Caisse	143	2 00	2 00	886	886	618	3,203	6,406	6,406	4,746	7,292	7,292	5,364
Paille	Sac	Sac	223	0 20	0 20	111·50	111·50	446	"	"	"	"	111·50	111·50	446
Pétrole	Caisse	Caisse	825	1 00	0 20	825	412·50	417	15,078	15,078	7,539	7,862	15,903	7,951·50	8,309
Pierres de Pokica; diverses	Tarif	Spécial	3,731	10 00	10 00	373·50	373·50	1,994·50	"	"	"	"	373·50	373·50	1,994·50
Plâtre brut	Quintal	Quintal	"	0 20	0 10	49	24·50	98	"	"	"	"	49	24·50	98
Plâtre en poudre	"	"	"	0 20	0 20	33·50	33·50	67	"	"	"	"	33·50	33·50	67
Pointes	"	"	"	0 20	1 00	45·50	91	91	"	"	"	"	45·50	91	91
Poussins de frêne	Colis	Colis	201	2 00	2 00	403	403	103	156	312	312	281	720	720	699
Potasse	Quintal	Quintal	"	1 00	1 00	825	825	825	"	"	"	"	825	825	825
Porcelaine	"	"	"	0 20	0 10	209·50	104·75	419	"	"	"	"	209·50	104·75	419
Provisions	Colis	Colis	165	2 00	2 00	330	330	316	3,460	6,920	6,920	4,754·50	7,250	7,250	5,070·50
Racine de réglisse	Quintal	Quintal	"	0 10	0 10	7,781	7,781	31,126	"	636·75	636·75	2,547	8,420·75	8,420·75	33,673
Sacs vides, vieux	Colis	Colis	"	1 00	1 00	"	"	"	6,547	6,547	6,547	4,911	6,547	6,547	4,911
Sel	Quintal	Quintal	"	0 10	0 10	1,853·75	1,853·75	7,415	"	"	"	"	1,853·75	1,853·75	7,415
Soude	Baril	Baril	295·50	2 00	2 00	593	593	1,186	"	"	"	"	593	593	1,186
Talc	Quintal	Quintal	"	0 20	0 10	259·50	129·75	519	"	"	"	"	259·50	129·75	519
Tétrailla	Colis	Colis	515	0 20	0 20	257·50	257·50	731	599	299·50	299·50	770·50	557	557	1,501·50
Tréfila	Balle	Balle	120	3 00	3 00	360	360	419	776	2,328	2,328	1,653	2,688	2,688	2,102
Verres à vitres	Caisse	Caisse	215	0 20	0 20	107·50	107·50	126	2,033	1,019	1,019	2,033·50	1,126·50	1,126·50	2,159·50
Totaux	"	"	"	"	"	190,551	137,783·50	203,106·25	"	136,396·50	95,831·50	112,105	326,947	233,615	315,211·25

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau E.)—Exportation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Taxes ont été Réduites actuellement par la Société des Quais par rapport au Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général, Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général, Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Nouveau Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Quintaux.			
				Pr. p.	Pr. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Bois (planches, poutres, et poutrelles diverses, du 1er Mai, 1880, au 30 Avril, 1881)	Suivant Tableau	..	145,781	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,702·75	1,551·50	..
Chaux grasse	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 10	0 05	61·50	30·75	246	..	..	..	..	61·50	30·75	246
Chiffons	..	..	..	0 20	0 15	5,211	3,908·25	10,422	..	..	..	..	5,211	3,908·25	10,422
Fèves	..	Kilé	210,912	1 60	0 06	89,329	31,624·75	89,329	95,519	39,311	14,297·75	39,311	128,670	45,919·50	128,670
Figues, refus (22 pour cent sur 140,761·50 quintaux)	..	Quintal	..	0 20	0 15	5,602·25	4,201·75	11,201·25	..	9,881·50	7,411	19,763·25	15,483·75	11,612·75	30,967·50
Papier d'emballage	Colis	..	148	2 00	1 00	296	262	262	2,498	4,996	3,375	3,303	5,292	3,367	3,367
Pétrole (quantité totale des caisses, 15,903)	Caisse	Caisse	825	0 20	0 10	412·50	206·25	417	15,078	7,539	3,769·50	7,892	7,951·50	3,975·75	8,309
Plâtre brut	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 10	0 05	21·50	12·25	98	..	..	..	..	21·50	12·25	98
Porcelaine	..	..	..	0 10	0 03	101·75	31·50	419	..	..	..	..	101·75	31·50	419
Raisins secs noirs et refus pour distillation, 50 pour cent sur 277,239 quintaux	..	..	..	0 20	0 15	10,318	7,761	20,636	7,761·25	58,961·75	44,221·25	117,923·50	69,302·75	51,982·25	138,619·50
													239,811·50	125,591·50	221,316

Pour identité:
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Table A.)—Importation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Définitions sont identiques dans l'Ancien et le Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général, Ancien Tarif.	Total Général, Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Allumettes	Caisse	Caisse	2,169	2 00	2 00	4,338	4,338	3,033·50	212	424	424	381·50	5,362	5,362	4,345
Alpistes	Kilé	Kilé	623	0 20	0 05	346·50	104	287	..	..	..	..	346·50	104	287
Anes	Tête	Tête	3	5 00	10 00	15	30	7	..	..	..	..	15	30	7
Bijouterie	Colis	Caisse	58	1 00	1 00	58	58	32	..	..	..	..	58	58	32
Blé	Kilé	Kilé	478,162	0 10	0 10	119,540·50	119,540·50	197,686	23,381	5,846	5,846	10,642	125,386·50	125,386·50	208,328
Bois de teinture	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 10	0 10	25·25	25·25	101	..	11	11	44	36·25	36·25	145
Bougies	Caisse	Mille	304,593	5 00	5 00	15,225	1,522·50	10,061	..	..	..	..	15,225	1,522·50	10,061
Café	Sac	Sac	23,386	1 00	1 00	23,386	23,386	22,145·75	6,778	6,778	6,778	7,056	30,164	30,164	29,211·75
Charbon de terre	Tonne	Tonne	9,253·25	5 00	3 20	46,266·25	32,386·50	165,144·50	37	185	129·50	693	46,451·25	32,516	165,837·50
Chevaux	Tête	Tête	47	5 00	10 00	235	470	330	2	10	20	15	245	490	345
Chrômate	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 10	285·50	142·75	571	..	..	..	..	285·50	142·75	571
Citrons	Mille	Mille	6,091,013	3 00	2 20	19,992	16,660	22,043·75	87,850	293·50	219·75	296·50	20,285·50	16,879·75	22,340·25
Clous	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 20	5,475·50	5,475·50	10,851	..	200	200	580	5,765·50	5,765·50	11,431
Cochenille	Colis	Colis	150	1 00	1 00	150	150	201·75	48	48	48	70·50	198	198	272·25
Couleurs	Baril	Baril	267	5 00	3 00	1,335	801	671	2,613	13,065	7,839	5,285	14,400	8,640	5,956
Cuivre	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 20	671·25	671·25	1,342·50	..	1,152	1,152	2,304	1,823·25	1,823·25	3,646·50
Draps et lainages	Balle	B. de 2 qx.	1,693	2 00	3 00	3,386	7,062	4,668	912	1,824	3,852	2,568	5,210	10,854	7,236
Droguerie	Colis	Colis	3,168	2 00	2 00	6,336	6,336	4,466·75	2,025	4,050	4,050	4,667	10,386	10,386	9,133·75
Emeril	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 10	569	284·50	1,138	..	..	..	..	569	284·50	1,138
Eponges	Caisse	Caisse	381	2 00	2 00	762	762	218·50	77	154	154	83·50	916	916	532
Essence de roses	Colis	Colis	156	1 00	1 00	156	156	32·50	..	..	..	..	156	156	52·50
Farine	Colis	Colis	22,651	2 00	1 00	45,302	22,651	38,764·75	9,383	18,766	9,383	12,862·50	64,068	32,034	51,727·25
Fèves	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 20	2,771·50	2,771·50	5,543	..	39,813	39,813	79,626	42,584·50	42,584·50	85,169
Fer blanc	Colis	Caisse	425	2 00	2 20	850	1,062·50	407	..	..	..	..	850	1,062·50	407
Figues	Quintal	Quintal	..	1 40	0 20	234	117	234	..	616	308	616	850	425	850
Fruits frais	Colis	Couffe	146	2 00	0 20	292	73	230	135	270	67·50	203	562	140·50	435
Graines de chanvre	Kilé	Kilé	153	0 20	0 05	77·50	23·25	53	495	247·50	74·25	191·50	325	97·50	214·50
Graines jaune	Colis	Sac	2,595	2 00	1 20	5,190	3,892·50	4,222·25	587	1,174	880·50	1,150·50	6,364	4,773	5,372·75
Machines	Pièce	Pièce	242	10 00	10 00	2,420	2,420	1,372·50	90	900	900	572·50	3,320	3,320	1,945
Maïs	Kilé	Kilé	39,620	0 10	0 05	9,905·50	5,941	18,306	7,007	1,751·75	1,051	3,094·50	11,659·25	6,993	21,400·50
Mercerie, petite caisse	Colis	Colis	1,690	2 00	2 00	3,380	3,380	2,598·50	..	..	..	..	3,380	3,380	2,598·50
Moutons, chèvres, et agneaux	Tête	Tête	173	5 00	0 20	2,365	230·50	226	117	585	58·50	27·50	2,950	293	251·50
Pommes	Mille	Mille	1,337,591	3 00	2 20	4,012·25	3,344	3,002·50	235,180	705	588	1,076	4,717·75	3,932	5,078·50
Poterie	Kilé	Kilé	56,321	0 10	0 05	11,080·25	8,448	22,585·25	7,670	1,909·75	1,145	3,494	12,990	9,593	26,079·25
Riz	Balle	Balle	8,701	2 00	2 00	17,582	17,582	12,703	3,131	6,268	6,268	3,740·50	23,850	23,850	16,443·50
Papier d'emballage	Balle	Balle	175	3 00	3 00	525	525	277·25	..	..	..	..	525	525	277·25
Papier divers	Tarif	Spécial	2,124,218	..	..	189,391·50	189,391·50	140,074·50	4,037	404·75	404·75	880	189,796·25	189,796·25	140,954·50
Planches	Quintal	Quintal	..	0 20	0 20	4,045·25	4,045·25	8,090·50	..	78·50	78·50	157	4,123·75	4,123·75	8,247·50
Plomb															

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Pontailles et poutres	Tarif	Spécial	568,781	..	..	27,976·75	27,976·75	81,516·75	..	..	..	..	27,976·75	27,976·75	81,516·75
Raisins secs	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	1 00	0 20	52,837	26,418·50	52,837	..	5,387	2,693·50	5,387	58,224	29,112	58,224
Riz	Sac ..	Sac ..	17,052	1 00	1 00	17,052	17,052	25,920·75	41,510	41,510	41,510	65,285·50	58,562	58,562	92,215·25
Sésame	Kilé ..	Kilé ..	10,924	0 20	0 10	5,462	2,731	5,536	13,140	9,570	4,785	7,091·50	15,032	7,516	12,630·50
Safran	Colis moyen	Colis moyen	518	3 00	3 00	1,554	1,554	673·25	..	..	..	..	1,554	1,554	673·25
Son	Sac ..	Sac ..	50	2 00	0 20	100	25	71·50	..	..	..	..	100	25	71·50
Talme	Ballot ..	Ballot ..	16,561	2 00	2 00	33,122	33,122	20,818	5,892	11,798	11,798	6,936	44,920	44,920	27,754
Toile	Cent ..	Mille ..	108,000	5 00	5 00	5,400	540	2,668	..	..	..	..	5,400	540	2,668
Verrerie	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	42	2 00	2 00	84	84	40·25	2,028	4,056	4,056	7,209·25	4,140	4,140	7,235·50
Voitures	Pièce ..	Pièce ..	56	10 00	10 00	560	560	546	..	..	..	..	560	560	546
Zinc	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 20	0 20	690·75	690·75	1,381·25	..	..	..	..	690·75	690·75	1,381·25
Totaux	..	..	..	..	..	696,297·50	597,532·75	991,671·25	..	179,910·75	156,675·75	231,619·75	876,208·25	754,208·50	1,139,321

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau B¹.)—Importation du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Définitions varient dans l'Ancien et le Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Acier	Colis ..	Quintal ..	1,135	2 00	2 00	2,270	3,813	1,906·50	330	660	817	408·50	2,930	4,630	2,315
Alcool	Baril brut..	Colis de 80 qx. net	3,987	2 00	2 00	7,974	12,480	15,128·50	..	..	..	..	7,974	12,480	15,128·50
Beurre	Baril { grand / petit }	Quintal ..	{ 449 / 828 }	5 00 / 1 00	3 00	{ 2,245 / 828 }	9,744	3,248	205	1,025	3,348	1,116	4,098	13,092	4,364
Bière	.. ..	Baril ..	4,180	2 00	3 00	8,360	12,540	5,102·75	..	..	..	..	8,360	12,540	5,102·75
Biscuits	Colis ..	Quintal ..	270	2 00	0 20	540	135	270	..	..	..	..	540	135	270
Cauvres	Balle ..	.. ..	810	3 00	1 20	2,430	3,242·25	2,161·50	1,084	3,252	15,730·50	10,487	5,682	18,972·75	12,648·50
Chiffons	.. ..	.. ..	1,682	3 00	0 20	5,046	2,522·50	5,015	407	1,221	746	1,492	6,537	3,268·50	6,537
Cire	Colis ..	.. ..	324	2 00	2 00	656	1,144	572	1,746	3,492	4,797	2,398·50	4,142	5,941	2,970·50

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général. Ancien Tarif.	Total Général. Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Total d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Cocons	Balle ..	Quintal ..	30	3 00	3 00	90	90	30	..	..	..	..	90	90	30
Cordages	Colis ..	.. ..	404	2 00	1 00	808	808	808	1,180	2,360	1,768·50	1,768·50	3,168	2,576·50	2,576·50
Cotons	Balle ..	.. ..	8,290	3 00	1 20	24,870	34,644	23,096	3,101	9,303	11,829	7,886	34,173	46,473	30,982
Cotonnades et cotons filés	..	D. de 2 qx..	2,249	2 00	3 00	4,498	6,747	5,612	8,690	17,380	31,630·50	21,087	21,878	38,377	26,699
Cuirs ouvrés	.. ..	Quintal ..	1,767·50	2 00	3 00	3,535	10,605	5,535	416	832	2,509	853	4,367	13,161	4,388
Etains	.. ..	.. ..	149	2 00	1 20	298	384	1256	568	1,136	1,681·50	1,121	1,434	2,065·50	1,377
Ferrailles	.. ..	.. ..	5·75	2 00	0 20	11·50	11·50	23	..	..	..	..	11·50	11·50	25
Fromages	.. ..	.. ..	4,419	2 00	0 20	8,838	3,203·50	7,407	1,207	2,414	759	1,518	11,252	3,962·50	7,925
Fruits secs	.. ..	.. ..	3,230	2 00	1 00	6,479	6,478	6,478	1,054·50	2,109	2,109	2,109	8,588	8,587	8,587
Galles	.. ..	Colis ..	86	2 00	2 00	172	172	120	164	328	223·50	500	500	500	343·50
Gomme Adragante	.. ..	Quintal ..	2,844	2 00	2 00	5,688	2,356	4,178	656	1,312	2,230	1,115	7,000	10,586	5,293
Huile	.. ..	Quintal ..	..	0 30	0 30	5,344·50	5,344·50	7,332·50	..	2,013	2,013	2,684	7,357·50	7,357·50	10,076·50
Laines	.. ..	Balles ..	1,993	3 00	1 20	5,979	7,553·25	5,035·50	1,620	4,860	5,108·25	3,605·50	10,839	12,961·50	8,641
Légumes frais	.. ..	Colis ..	33,940	2 00	0 20	67,880	21,413	12,962	132	264	69·50	139	68,144	21,550·50	43,101
.. secs	.. ..	.. ..	6,818	2 00	1 00	13,636	11,824	11,824	2,768	5,536	4,458·50	4,458·50	19,172	16,282·50	16,282·50
Manufactures	.. ..	Balles ..	8,326	3 00	4 00	24,978	33,303	24,940	..	..	..	..	24,978	33,253	21,940
.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	4 00	4 00	..	..	..	10,984	43,936	81,987	61,490	43,936	81,987	61,490
Matière (Tarif Spécial)	..	Cent ..	35,510	10 00	10 00	3,554	3,554	49,185·75	..	..	..	..	3,554	3,554	49,185·75
Meubles	.. ..	Colis ..	745	6 00	6 00	4,470	4,470	1,863·50	597	2,382	2,382	1,815	6,852	6,852	3,398·50
Olives	.. ..	.. ..	1,006	2 00	0 20	2,012	1,132	2,264	..	..	..	..	2,012	1,132	2,261
Opium	.. ..	Colis de 80 chéky	394	2 00	8 00	788	3,754	983·25	235	470	1,950	977	1,258	5,704	810·25
Peaux brutes	.. ..	Balle ..	2,709	3 00	1 20	8,127	10,570·50	7,047	2,953	6,856	10,136·25	6,757·50	16,983	20,706·75	13,804·50
.. ouvrées	.. ..	.. ..	905	2 00	2 00	1,810	7,305	2,435	..	..	..	..	1,810	7,305	2,435
Poissons salés	.. ..	Baril ..	1,571	2 00	2 00	3,142	3,142	2,358·50	5,090	10,192	10,192	7,235·50	13,334	13,334	9,631
Quincaillerie	.. ..	Colis ..	3,217	2 00	2 20	6,434	16,085	6,431	8,236	16,512	33,071·25	13,228·50	22,946	49,156·25	19,662·50
Sans villes neufs (canevas)	..	Balle ..	1,551	3 00	1 20	4,653	4,167·50	2,776·25	..	..	..	..	4,653	4,167·50	2,778·25
Savons	.. ..	Colis ..	1,264	2 00	1 00	3,528	1,932	1,932	3,619	7,238	5,408	5,108	9,766	7,340	7,340
Soufre	.. ..	Sac ..	2,552	1 00	0 20	2,552	1,160	2,320	18,770	18,770	8,497	16,994	21,322	9,657	12,314
Sucre	.. ..	Balle ..	15,962	2 00	1 20	31,924	14,386·50	29,591·25	11,347	23,694	33,150	22,100	55,618	77,536·50	51,691·25
Tapis	.. ..	.. ..	1	3 00	3 00	3	7·50	2·50	243	744	2,235	745	747	2,242·50	747·50
Valisade brute	.. ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 05	52,305·50	31,382	209,214	..	1,204·25	722·50	4,816·75	53,507·75	32,104·50	214,030·75
.. travaillée	.. ..	.. ..	..	0 10	0 10	5,811·50	5,811·50	23,246	..	133·75	133·75	535·25	5,945·25	5,945·25	23,781·25
Vin	.. ..	Baril ..	1,297	2 00	1 20	2,594	1,945·50	2,144	..	..	..	..	2,594	1,945·50	2,144
Totaux	..	..	..	..	..	336,351	339,251·50	519,240·25	..	193,899	282,137	205,862·50	530,250	621,388·50	725,102·75

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau C¹.)—IMPORTATIONS : Articles non-dénommés assimilés d'après le Paragraphe 2 du Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général, Ancien Tarif.	Total Général, Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pes. p.	Pes. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Abricots	Baile ..	Quintal ..	1	3 00	0 20	3	1·25	2·50	..	..	..	..	3	1·25	2·50
Ail	Baril ..	.. ..	50	2 00	0 20	100	41·25	83·50	360	720	424·75	849·50	820	469	938
Amidon	Caisse ..	.. ..	133	2 00	1 20	266	726	494	712	1,921	1,123·50	749	1,550	1,849·50	1,233
Anis	Cofre ..	.. ..	325*	2 00	1 20	650	641·75	461·25	..	..	..	..	650	691·75	461·25
Arack	Cofre ..	.. ..	2,146	0 50	0 10	541·50	541·50	1,075·25	..	..	..	..	541·50	541·50	1,075·25
Arbres	Pièce ..	Pièce ..	162	3 00	3 50	486	486	189·75	..	..	..	..	486	486	189·75
Armes	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	335	2 00	1 00	670	835·75	927	..	..	..	..	670	835·75	927
Balais, Lièges & Balais ..	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	9,202	0 50	0 50	2,300·50	2,300·50	3,861·25	1,672	418	418	972	2,718·50	2,718·50	4,833·25
Barils vides	Pièce ..	Pièce ..	..	0 20	0 20	922	922	1,844	..	..	..	..	922	922	1,844
Bois de teinture	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	2 00	2 00	3,100	3,100	1,345	..	..	..	..	3,100	3,100	1,345
Bouchons vides	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	711	0 20	0 20	355·50	355·50	971·50	..	..	..	..	355·50	355·50	971·50
Cabanes volantes	.. ..	.. ..	..	0 20	0 20	339	339	451·75	..	..	..	..	339	339	451·75
Cacao	Pièce ..	Pièce ..	1,356	0 10	0 10	339	339	565	1,118	1,592	1,592	2,568·75	5,648	5,648	9,153·75
Cadres de tambours	Baril ..	Baril ..	264	4 00	4 00	1,056	1,056	2,531	..	..	..	..	1,456·50	874	2,331
Canne	Kilé ..	Kilé ..	5,825	0 10	0 06	1,456·50	874	650·25	..	..	..	..	234·50	234·50	650·25
Cannes à sucre	Botte ..	Botte ..	398	0 10	0 10	234·50	234·50	26,196	..	..	..	..	234·50	234·50	26,357
Cendres de bois	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 20	0 10	13,098	6,549	4,035·50	2,161	1,080	540	2,161	14,178	7,089	4,035·50
Cierges	Sac ..	Sac ..	1,272	0 25	0 10	2,917	1,068	7,995	..	5,446·50	2,723·25	10,893	2,917	1,068	18,795
Citrons hydrophiliques	.. ..	Quintal ..	..	0 20	0 10	3,992·50	1,976·25	223	..	..	..	..	2,390	1,090·50	393
Ciment	.. ..	Sac ..	3,979	0 10	0 10	797·50	797·50	11,040	..	..	..	..	797·50	797·50	393
Cigares Jamaïque, Sidra ..	Pièce ..	Caisse ..	5,520	2 00	2 00	11,040	11,040	1,128·50	4,128	4,128	4,128	4,050·50	11,040	11,040	11,040
Citrons	Cofre ..	Cofre ..	1,259	1 00	1 00	1,259	1,259	3,095	2	1	3	2	5,387	5,387	5,479
Cyprès	Sac ..	Sac ..	1,529	2 00	1 20	3,058	3,992·50	816	..	..	..	..	5,412	5,995·50	5,907
Cornouilles	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	1,819	0 50	0 15	910	302·75	615	..	..	..	..	846	382·75	845
Dépôt	Kilé ..	Quintal ..	425	2 00	0 10	612	153	1,103	2,855	1,427·50	551·50	1,103	612	153	612
Dessins de cotton	Balle ..	Balle ..	586	0 20	0 20	5,306·50	2,101	5,328	..	..	..	..	6,734	2,715·50	5,131
Gaufres de paint.	Kilé ..	.. ..	10,613	0 20	0 20	648	648	5,689	..	..	..	..	648	648	8,889
Jeunes Chefs Spéciaux ..	Pièce ..	Pièce ..	1,296	0 20	0 20	980·50	980·50	1,871	..	..	..	..	980·50	980·50	1,874
Lait	Colis ..	Colis ..	1,961	0 20	0 20	184	184	152·50	..	..	..	..	184	184	139·50
Légumes	.. ..	.. ..	92	2 00	2 00	5,106	5,106	1,151·25	4,564	9,128	9,128	6,958·50	12,234	12,234	8,109·75
Lingots	.. ..	.. ..	1,553	2 00	2 00	310	221·50	589	901	1,808	1,690	3,380	2,121	1,984·50	3,969
Lupuses	.. ..	Quintal ..	158	0 20	0 20	4,056·50	4,056·50	16,226	..	..	..	..	4,056·50	4,056·50	16,226
Nankeens	Baril ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 10	106·50	106·50	220	..	..	..	..	106·50	106·50	220
Oignons	Quintal ..	Sac ..	213	0 25	0 20	321	160·50	165	68,261	68,261	34,130·50	55,530·25	68,295	13,957·50	55,695·25
Perles	Sac ..	Caisse ..	321	1 00	0 20	13,257·50	13,257·50	205,331	..	..	..	..	13,957·50	13,957·50	205,828
Pistaches	Caisse ..	Kilé ..	2,791·50	5 00	5 00	25,009·50	25,009·50	11,702	..	..	..	..	25,009·50	25,009·50	207,330
Poivre-lauriers	Kilé ..	Spécial ..	87,617	..	..	5,851	2,925·50	172·50	..	..	..	..	5,851	2,925·50	11,702
.. .. ..	Tarif.	Quintal ..	..	0 20	0 10	225	223	15,378	..	..	..	..	223	223	172·50
Pâtes	Quintal ..	Panier ..	446	0 20	0 20	11,336	11,336	12,765	1,520	3,040	3,040	2,595	14,376	14,376	15,378
Poissons frais pour être salés ..	Panier ..	Sac ..	5,668	2 00	2 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,162·50	5,581·25	22,325
Pommes de terre	Sac ..	Quintal ..	..	0 20	0 10	11,162·50	5,581·25	22,325	..	..	..	..			
Pommes	Quintal ..	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général, Ancien Tarif.	Total Général, Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Ancien Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— L'Ancien Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après l'Ancien Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Quintaux.			
				Pes. p.	Pes. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Provisions	Colis ..	Colis ..	3,315	2 00	2 00	6,790	6,790	1,575	1,769	3,530	3,530	2,518	10,320	10,320	7,123
Racine de réglisse	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 10	356·50	356·50	1,426	..	..	..	..	356·50	356·50	1,426
Rhums	Baril ..	Colis de 50 olors	2,227	2 00	2 00	3,392	4,451	4,051	..	..	..	..	3,392	4,451	4,051
Sans sides crés	Colis de 100 sans	Colis de 100 sans	912	1 00	1 00	912	912	912·25	4,409	4,409	4,409	8,950	5,351	5,351	9,862·25
Sable	Kaik ..	Kaik ..	1,100	5 00	5 00	5,500	5,500	112,500	..	..	..	..	5,500	5,500	112,500
Sel	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 10	15,313	15,313	51,252	..	463	463	1,852	15,776	15,776	53,104
Soda	Baril ..	Baril ..	1,107	2 00	2 00	2,214	2,214	2,151	505	1,010	1,010	2,503	3,224	3,224	4,657
Soie	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	3,117	0 20	0 10	1,558·50	1,023	3,332	..	..	..	..	1,558·50	1,083	4,532
Talc	Balle ..	Balle ..	256	3 00	3 00	768	768	316·50	167	501	501	318·50	1,269	1,269	635
Tetriks	Colis ..	Colis ..	2,223	0 20	0 20	1,146·50	1,146·50	3,250	1,200	600	600	1,068	1,746·50	1,746·50	4,318
Terrailles	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	1,423	0 20	0 20	711·50	711·50	5,141	6,250	3,125	3,125	6,248·25	3,836·50	3,836·50	11,389·25
Vermicelle	Colis ..	Colis ..	2,351	2 00	2 00	4,702	4,702	1,878·25	..	..	..	..	4,702	4,702	1,878·25
Zinzolin	.. ..	.. ..	..	..	..	175,572	156,311·25	1,005,589·25	..	115,115·5	76,120·50	95,318·25	290,787·25	232,441·75	1,163,898·50
Tonnes	..	..	..	..	..										

(Signé) Pour identité :
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MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
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(Tableau E'.)—IMPORTATION du 1er Mars, 1878, au 1er Mars, 1879. Articles dont les Taxes ont été Réduites actuellement par la Société des Quais par rapport au Nouveau Tarif.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité de Poids ou Mesure.		Quais.						Partie Libre.				Total Général, Nouveau Tarif.	Total Général, Nouveau Tarif Modifié.	Total Général des Quintaux.
	Nouveau Tarif.	Nouveau Tarif modifié.	Quantités.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif.	Taxe d'après— Le Nouveau Tarif Modifié.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif Modifié.	Quintaux.	Quantités.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif.	Total d'après le Nouveau Tarif Modifié.	Quintaux.			
				Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.			Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.	
Chaux grasse	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 05	6,540	3,274·50	26,196	..	540	270	2,161	7,080	3,544·50	28,357
Ciblins	.. ..	.. ..	..	0 20	0 15	2,522·50	1,892	15,015	..	710	532·50	1,422	3,232·50	2,424·50	16,437
Papier d'emballage	Balle ..	.. ..	8,701	2 00	1 00	17,402	12,703	12,703	3,134	6,268	3,750·50	3,750·50	23,670	16,453·50	16,453·50
Pétrole	Caisse ..	Caisse ..	324	0 20	0 10	64·8	81	165	68,203	34,150·50	17,065·25	55,530·25	34,292·50	17,146·25	55,695·25
Plâtre	Quintal ..	Quintal ..	..	0 10	0 05	2,925·50	1,462·75	11,702	..	..	..	..	2,925·50	1,462·75	11,702
Pozzolane	.. ..	.. ..	..	0 10	0 05	5,581·25	1,674·50	22,325	..	..	..	..	5,581·25	1,674·50	22,325
Lait	Colis ..	Colis ..	1,961	2 00	0 20	3 922	980·50	1,874	..	..	..	..	3,922	980·50	1,874
Importations de l'étranger en transit	..	..	15,555	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65,316	16,329	..
Importations de l'intérieur en transit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,149	5,537·25	..
Importation des bois du 1er Mai, 1880, au 30 Avril, 1881 ..	Suivant	Tableau.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127,462·25	80,020·75	..
Totaux	..	..	2,735,031	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	295,356	145,606·50	..

(Signé) Pour identité :
HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau E' B.)—Importation de Bois, du 1er Mai, 1880, au 31 Avril, 1881.

Bois.		Quantité.	Nature.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Actuel.	Montant qui aurait été perçu d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Montant perçu actuellement.
				Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Planches— Grandes	.. ..	9,676	Les 100	10 00	10 00	237·50	1,421·25
.. ..	.. ..	152,280	..	10 00	10 00	1,900	11,400
.. Moyennes	.. ..	28,925	..	2 00	2 00	1,446·25	8,677·50
.. ..	.. ..	51,650	..	1 60	1 60	2,064	12,384
.. Petites	.. ..	220,182	..	1 60	1 60	8,807·25	52,843·50
.. ..	.. ..	55,460	..	1 60	1 60	2,218·40	13,310·40
.. ..	.. ..	962,012	..	0 40	0 40	9,620·12	57,720·75
.. ..	.. ..	17,944	..	0 40	0 40	179·44	1,076·64
.. ..	.. ..	6,000	..	0 40	0 40	60	360
.. ..	.. ..	158,716	..	1 20	1 20	4,761·48	28,568·88
.. ..	.. ..	1,380	..	1 00	1 00	34·50	207
.. ..	.. ..	154,925	..	1 00	1 00	3,873·12	23,238·75
.. ..	.. ..	218,620	..	0 60	0 60	3,279·30	19,675·80
Grandes Moyennes	.. ..	570	..	10 00	0 85	57	484·50
.. ..	.. ..	311	..	7 00	0 01	21·77	0·03
Moyennes Grandes	.. ..	3	..	10 00	2 00	0·30	0·60
.. ..	.. ..	25	..	10 00	1 60	2·50	0·40
.. ..	.. ..	267	..	14 00	1 60	3·74	0·42
.. ..	.. ..	2,020	..	10 00	0 10	20·20	2·02
Petites Poutres— Grandes	.. ..	15,000	..	4 00	..	600	578
.. ..	.. ..	6	Pièce	1 60	1 60	9·60	9·60
.. ..	.. ..	1,896	..	1 00	1 00	1,896	1,896
.. ..	.. ..	1	..	1 00	1 00	1	1
Moyennes	.. ..	1,809·50	..	0 20	0 20	361·90	361·90
.. ..	.. ..	23	..	1 00	1 00	23	23
.. ..	.. ..	1,000	..	1 60	1 60	1,600	1,600
Petites	.. ..	12	..	0 10	0 10	1·20	1·20
.. ..	.. ..	534	..	0 10	0 10	53·40	53·40
.. ..	.. ..	680	..	0 10	0 10	68	68
.. ..	.. ..	1	..	0 10	0 10	0·10	0·10

Différence, 8,151 piastres.

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

Bois.		Quantité.	Nature.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Actuel.	Montant qui aurait été perçu d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Montant perçu actuellement.
				Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Planches— Grandes	.. ..	7,342	Les 100	10 00	10 00	734·25	734·25
.. ..	.. ..	5,628	..	7 00	7 00	394·50	394·50
.. Moyennes	.. ..	1,000	..	5 00	5 00	50	50
.. Petites	.. ..	11,721	..	4 00	4 00	469·25	469·25
.. ..	.. ..	300	..	3 00	3 00	9	9
.. ..	.. ..	28,957	..	4 00	4 00	1,159·50	1,159·50
.. ..	.. ..	4,750	..	3 00	3 00	142·50	142·50
.. ..	.. ..	18,050	..	4 00	1 20	722	216
.. ..	.. ..	49,682	..	4 00	4 00	1,987·28	1,987·28
.. Grandes	.. ..	6	Pièce	10 00	2 00	60	12
.. ..	.. ..	312	..	10 00	0 05	312	15·60
.. ..	.. ..	49	..	10 00	0 07	49	3·43
.. ..	.. ..	25	..	10 00	1 00	250	25
Poutres— Grandes	.. ..	58	..	1 60	1 60	58	58
.. ..	.. ..	78	..	1 60	2 00	78	100
.. Moyennes	.. ..	15	..	10 00	0 20	15	15
Poutrelles— Grandes	.. ..	20	Les 100	10 00	15 00	2	3
.. ..	.. ..	102	..	10 00	10 00	10·20	10·20
.. Moyennes	.. ..	963	..	7 00	7 00	67·50	67·50
Petites	.. ..	1,691	..	4 00	4 00	119·25	119·25
.. ..	.. ..	5,400	..	3 00	2 00	324	114
Voliges— Grandes	.. ..	15	Les 100	1 00	1 00	45	45
Petites	.. ..	2,300	..	1 00	1 00	23	23
		115,781				7,702·28	4,591·50

Doit.	Quantité.	Nature.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Taxe d'après le Tarif Actuel.	Montant qui aurait dû être perçu d'après le Tarif Officiel.	Montant perçu actuellement.
			Pres. p.	Pres. p.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Poutrelles—						
Grandes	158	Les 100	10 00	15 00	23·75	
.. ..	27,412	»	10 00	10 00	2,741·25	2,741·25
Moyennes	46,110	»	7 00	7 00	3,178·75	3,178·75
Petites	101,187	»	4 00	4 00	4,047·50	4,047·50
Moyennes	194	»	7 00	8 00	12·88	14·75
Petites	251,656	»	4 00	2 00	10,066	5,033
.. ..	131,375	»	4 00	1 00	5,375	1,343·75
.. ..	66,400	»	4 00	0 10	3,150	216
Poutres—						
Grandes	457	Pièce	11 00	1 00	457·75	457·75
.. ..	159	»	11 00	1 00	159	159·50
Moyennes	1,313	»	0 20	0 20	656·75	656·75
Petites	606	»	0 10	0 10	151·50	151·50
Poutrelles—						
Petites	13,040	Les 100	4 00	2 20	521·60	326
.. ..	1,330	»	4 00	5 00	53·20	66·50
					127,462·16	80,026·80

Différence, 47,435 piastres.

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

Importations de l'Étranger.

(Tableau F.)—Tableau des Marchandises passées en transit par la Douane Franque de Smyrne à partir du 1er Mars, 1296 (v.s.), jusqu'à la fin du Mois de Février, 1297, tant pour l'Empire Ottoman que pour les Pays étrangers.

Quantités.	Nature des Colis.	Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité.	Poids, Mesure, ou Quantité.	Taxe.	Montant.
					Pres. p.	Piastres.
34	Balles	Cuivre	Quintal ..	110	1 20	660
28	Paquets	Marchandise (petit)	Pièce ..	28	2 00	56
703	Caisses	.. .. (moyen) ..	.. ..	763	3 00	2,289
44	Balles (2 qx. la balle) ..	Peaux ouvrées	Quintal ..	88	3 00	264
1,713	Sacs (76 okes le sac) ..	Poix	.. ..	3,426	0 10	759
203	.. .. ..	Sucre	.. ..	360	1 20	540
6	Barils (2 qx. le baril) ..	Olives	.. ..	12	0 20	6
129	Sacs	Café	Sac ..	129	1 00	129
387	Ballots et ballots	Manufactures (moyenne 6 qx. la balle)	3 quintaux	2,322	1 00	2,283
2,720	Barils (le baril pèse en moyenne 138 okes, huiles 14 pour cent tare)	Natron	Quintal ..	7,316	0 20	3,658
1,025	Sacs	Farine	Sac ..	1,025	1 00	1,025
14	Caisettes	Bougie	P. colis ..	44	2 00	88
28	Ballots (en moyenne 2 qx.) ..	Cordages	Quintal ..	56	1 00	56
16	Barils	Quincaillerie	.. ..	32	2 20	80
89	Caisses (caisses petites) ..	Verroterie	Colis ..	89	2 00	178
66	Caisses (en moyenne 3 qx.) ..	Manufactures	2 quintaux	198	3 00	594
221	Bottes (101 okes la botte en moyenne)	Cuivre	Quintal ..	922	0 20	261
30	Barils (102 okes net en moyenne)	Alun	.. ..	69	0 20	31·50
60	Barils (comme couleurs) ..	Couleurs	Barils ..	60	3 00	180
3	Caisses (2 qx. la caisse) ..	Peaux ouvrées	Quintal ..	6	3 00	18
395	Barils	Harengs	Baril ..	395	2 00	790
5	Colis	Groupes	.. ..	..	..	..
17	Caissettes	Habits confectionnés ..	Colis ..	17	2 00	34
254	Sacs (le sac 39 okes)	Soutre	Quintal ..	225	0 20	112·50
3	Barils (3 qx. le baril) ..	Sucre	.. ..	9	1 20	13·50
31	Caisses	Droguerie	Colis moyen	31	3 00	93
14	Caisses et barils	Bière	Colis ..	14	2 00	28
1,816	Morceaux (8 okes le morceau) ..	Fers	Quintal ..	330	0 20	165
1,896	Bottes (cercles, 20 okes) ..	Peau	.. ..	857	0 20	428·50
4	Barils	Sel ammoniac	.. ..	..	1 20	..
34	Barils (2 qx. le baril) ..	Etain	.. ..	68	1 20	102
104	Caisses et ballots	Papier (1½ ql. la colis) ..	Colis ..	104	2 00	208
3	Caisses	Tableaux (meubles)	.. ..	3	6 00	18
7	Caisses	Livres	.. ..	7	2 00	14
6	Bottes (¼ de ql. la botte) ..	Peles	Quintal ..	11	1 20	2·25

Quantité.	Nature des Colis.	Nature de la Marchandise.	Unité.	Poids, Mesure, ou Quantité.	Taxe.	Montant.
					Pres. p.	Piastres.
146	Caisses et pièces	Machines	La pièce ..	146	10 00	1,460
9	Caisses (2 qx. en moyenne) ..	Quincaillerie	Quintal ..	18	2 20	45
4	Barils	Farine	Sac ..	4	1 00	4
804	Sacs (1 kilé le sac)	Maïs jaune	Kilé ..	3,216	0 05	482·50
38	Colis (2 qx. le colis)	Cordages	Quintal ..	76	1 00	76
157	Balles (cauevas, 10 qx. la balle)	Sacs	.. ..	1,570	1 20	2,355
9	Caisettes	Comestibles	Colis ..	9	2 00	18
20	Barils (1 qx. en moyenne) ..	Alcool	.. ..	41	2 00	88
845	Sacs	Riz	Sac ..	845	1 00	845
2	Caissettes	Cigares	Colis ..	2	2 00	4
61	Caisses	Couleurs	.. ..	61	3 00	183
17	Barils	Vin	.. ..	17	1 20	25·50
3	Barils	Noix de galles	.. ..	3	2 00	6
309	Caisses	Citrons	.. ..	309	2 00	618
14	Pièces	Balances	.. ..	14	2 00	28
4	Balles (2½ qx. la balle) ..	Peaux brutes	Quintal ..	6	1 20	9
108	Caisses	Liqueurs	Colis ..	108	2 00	216
5	Caisses	Colle forte	.. ..	5	2 00	10
162	Barils (120 okes le colis) ..	Rhum (80 okes le colis) ..	.. ..	250	2 00	500
930	Colis (50 ns colis)	Planches	Cent. ..	16,500	4 00	1,860
2	Caisses (couleurs)	Verdis	Colis ..	2	3 00	6
30	Barils (2 qx. net le baril) ..	Potasse pour vignes ..	Quintal ..	60	1 00	60
3	Balles (2½ qx. la balle) ..	Laines	.. ..	75	1 20	11·25
35	Sacs et caisses	Droguerie	Colis ..	35	2 00	70
20	Barils (120 okes net le baril) ..	Huile	Quintal ..	55	0 30	41·25
48	Bottes (½ ql. la botte) ..	Tuiles en fer	.. ..	24½	0 20	10·75
3	Caisses	Bière	Colis ..	3	2 00	6
242	Morceaux (3 okes le morceau) ..	Peaux	Quintal ..	16½	3 00	49·50
50	Sacs	Ail	Colis ..	50	1 00	50
97	Sacs	Pommes de terre	.. ..	97	2 00	194
5	Caisses	Fez bonnets	Colis moyen à la pièce	5	3 00	15
20	Hottes	Paniers	Colis ..	20	0 20	10
23	Bottes (la botte 1 ql.) ..	Acier	Quintal ..	23	2 00	46
20	Barils (3 qx. le baril) ..	Pointes	.. ..	60	1 00	60
15	Barils (100 okes le baril) ..	Grenailles	.. ..	150	0 20	75·50
382	Caisses	Verres à vitres	Colis ..	382	0 20	191
24	Balles (2 qx. la balle) ..	Chanvre	Quintal ..	48	1 20	72
111	Sacs (1½ ql. le sac)	Figues	.. ..	194	0 20	97
30	Barils	Maïs, poids des sacs ..	Colis, tarif	30	3 00	90
2	Barils	Ginger, 100 kilog. ..	Quintal ..	3	0 10	0·75
4	Bottes (1 ql. la botte) ..	Seaux	.. ..	1	1 20	1·50
10	Sacs (2 qx. le sac)	Bois de campêche ..	.. ..	20	0 10	5
1	Caisse (parfumerie)	Poudres de riz	Colis ..	1	3 00	4
2	Sacs	Pointes	Quintal ..	1	1 00	1
46	Barils (2 qx. le baril) ..	Huile de naphte	.. ..	92	1 20	138
13	Sacs (2 qx. le sac)	Haricots	.. ..	26	1 00	26
4	Caisses	Voitures	Colis ..	4	10 00	40
7	Morceaux (en feuilles) ..	Plomb (210 okes le morceau) ..	Quintal ..	38	0 20	19
5	Caisses (1½ ql. la caisse) ..	Sucrerie	.. ..	7½	2 20	18·75
7	Sacs	Cochenille	Colis ..	7	1 00	7
18	Caisses (1 ql. le colis) ..	Cérues	Quintal ..	18	1 00	18
2	Caisses	Sulfurine	Colis à la pièce	2	3 00	6
23	Caisses	Allumettes	Caisses ..	23	2 00	46
50	Barils (100 kilog. le baril) ..	Ciment	Quintal ..	88	0 10	22
348	Caisses (1½ ql. la caisse) ..	Oignons	.. ..	522	0 10	130·50
5	Colis	Old Tom	Colis ..	5	2 00	10
17,555		Totaux	..	..	..	32,638

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

(Tableau G.)—Tableau des Opérations passées en transit par la Douane Turque à partir du 1er Mars, 1296 (v.s.), jusqu'à la fin du mois de Février, 1297.

Nature de la Marchandise.	Nature des Colis.	Quantité.	Unité.	Taxe.	Quantité, Poids, ou Mesure.	Montant.
				Pcs. p.		Piastres.
Tabatière en bois	Caisse (quincaillerie, 2 qx.)	1	Quintal	2 20	2	5
Habits confectionnés	Caisse moyenne	1	Colis	4 00	1	4
Oignons de dessa	Sacs	27	"	2 00	27	54
Opium	Caisse de 80 chékis	1	Chéki 80	8 00	80	8
Coings	Barils divers	2	Colis	2 00	2	4
Poissons salés (fumés)	Sacs (en moyenne 2 qx. le sac)	8	Colis, gd.	2 00	8	16
Figues	" (1½ ql. le sac)	36	Quintal	0 20	63	31·50
Amandes	Caisses fruits secs	1	"	3 00	1	4
Vallonées	Sacs (2 qx. en moyenne)	133	"	0 10	266	66·50
Farineux Boulgour	Sac (provision)	1	Colis	2 00	1	2
Poivre	Sac	1	"	1 00	1	1
Oranges	Caisse	30	"	2 00	30	60
Coton filé	Balle (2½ qx.)	1	Quintal	3 20	2½	8·50
Graines de halais (cérésles)	Sacs (2 qx. le sac)	20	Kilé	0 06	40	6
Coton	Colis (3½ qx. la balle)	181	Quintal	1 20	633½	950·25
Riz	Sac	22	Sac	1 00	22	22
Sacs vides	Colis (canevas, 10 qx. la balle)	4	Quintal	1 20	40	60
Tumbéki	Colis	4	Colis	2 00	4	8
Salaison	Caisse	8	"	2 00	8	16
Peaux brutes	Colis (2½ qx. la balle)	33	Quintal	1 20	82½	123·75
"	"	1	"	1 20	2½	3·75
Lièges	Caisse	1	Colis	2 00	1	2
Peaux brutes	Colis (2½ qx. la balle)	92½				
"	"	112	Quintal	1 20	3021	588·75
"	"	20				
Thé	Caisse	2	Colis	2 00	2	4
Gomme	" (1½ qx. la caisse)	8	Quintal	2 00	14	28
Fruits secs (pistaches)	" (1½ ql.)	1	"	1 00	1½	1·50
Raisins secs Sultanine	Caissettes (½ ql. la caissette)	150	"	0 20	75	37·50
"	Sacs (1½ ql. le sac)	41	"	0 20	61½	30·75
Graines jaunes	Colis	10	Colis	1 20	10	15
"	Sacs	21	"	1 20	21	31·50
Colle forte	"	2	"	2 00	2	4
Ifas	" (incisevin, colis moyen)	2	"	3 00	7	21
Verres à vitres	Caisse (verrerie)	1	"	0 20	1	0·50
Noix	Colis	2	"	4 00	2	8
Blé	Sacs (4 kilés le sac)	5	Kilé	0 10	20	5
Soierie	Colis (colis moyen int. à la pièce)	1	Colis	3 00	1	3
Bourre de soie	Caisses (½ ql. en moyenne)	8	Quintal	3 00	8	24
"	Sacs	3	"	3 00	3	9
Soierie	Caisse (colis moyen)	1	Colis moyen	3 00	1	3
Quincaillerie	" (2 qx. en moyenne)	10	Quintal	2 20	20	50
Vin	Caissette	1	Colis	2 00	1	2
Tabac	Colis	205	"	2 00	205	410
Gomme mastic	Caissettes (1 ql. la caisse)	3	Quintal	2 00	3	6
"	Caisses (1½ ql. la caisse)	12	"	3 00	21	42
"	Sacs (1 ql. le sac)	2	"	2 00	2	4
"	" (2 qx. le sac)	112	"	0 10	224	56
Fanteil	Barils (1½ ql. le baril)	10	"	2 00	15	30
Huile de rigale (stéaux)	" (2 qx. le baril)	15	"	0 20	30	15
Olives	" (droguerie)	10	Colis	2 00	15	30
Huile de morue	Colis	1	Quintal	1 20	2½	3·50
Coton filé	Sac	1	"	1 20	2½	3·50
"	Barils (2 qx. en moyenne	89	"	1 20	178	267
Beurre (yerli)	" (120 okes net le baril)	231	"	0 30	630	472·50
Huile d'olives	Sacs	177	Colis	1 00	177	177
Farine	" (1½ ql. le colis)	60	Quintal	0 20	90	45
Fromage	Barils (2 qx. la balle)	1	"	3 00	2	6
Peaux ouvrées	Caisse	1	"	3 00	2	6
Cuirs ouvrés	Ballot	1	"	3 00	2	6
"	Colis	14	"	3 50	28	84
Tapis	Ballot (3 qx. la balle)	1	"	3 00	3	9
"	Colis	1	"	3 00	3	9
Orge	Sacs (4 kilés le sac)	794	Kilé	0 06	3,176	476·50
Sésame	"	1,151	"	0 10	1,601	1,151
Eponges	Caissettes	179	Colis	2 00	179	358
"	Sacs	107	"	2 00	107	214
Bâtes	"	5	"	1 00	5	5
Cire jaune	" (1½ ql. le colis)	2	Quintal	2 00	3	6
Ail	" (légumes secs)	3	Colis	1 00	4	4
Oignons	" (1½ ql. le sac)	81	Quintal	0 10	142	35·50
Savons	Caisses (1½ ql. en moyenne)	2	"	1 00	3	3
"	Sacs	56	"	1 00	81	81
Tapis	Ballot (3 qx. en moyenne)	1	"	3 00	3	9
Poissons salés	Barils (colis, gd.)	11	Colis	2 00	11	22
Sagovie (Tabin Halva)	Colis (provisions)	268	"	2 00	268	536
Miel	Caisse	1	"	2 00	1	2
Pistaches	Sacs (1½ ql. le sac)	20	Quintal	1 50	30	30
Drogs gros (akas)	Colis (2 qx. le colis)	14	"	1 20	28	42
Maïs	Sacs (4 kilés le sac)	615	Kilé	0 06	2,580	387
Raisins secs noirs	" (2 qx. le sac)	923	Quintal	0 20	1,846	923
Cuillers en bois	Barils (quincaillerie)	5	"	2 20	10	25
Echantillons	Caisses	2	"	"	"	"
Oranges sèches	Sacs (1½ ql. fruits secs)	4	Quintal	1 00	6	6
Gomme mastic	Barils (1½ ql. le baril)	2	"	2 00	3	6
Raisins secs (Rozaki)	Caissettes (½ ql. la caisse)	539	"	0 20	269	134·50

Nature de la Marchandise.	Nature de Colis.	Quantité.	Unité.	Taxe.	Quantité, Poids ou Mesure.	Montant.
				Pcs. p.		Piastres.
Raisins secs (Rozaki)	Caisse (1½ ql. la caisse)	17	Quintal	0 20	25	12·50
"	Barils (1½ ql.)	26	"	0 20	39	19·50
"	Sacs (1½ ql. le sac)	143	"	0 20	214	107
Abricots secs	Caisses (1½ ql. en moyenne)	11	"	1 00	16½	16·50
Café	Sacs	27	Colis	1 00	27	27
Raisin rouge	" (1½ ql. le sac)	244	Quintal	0 20	366	183
Tapis	Ballot (3 qx. en moyenne)	1	"	0 20	3	9
Soufre	Sacs (1 ql.)	9	"	0 20	9	4·50
Graines de lin	" (1½ ql.)	20	"	0 20	35	17·50
" chanvre	" (1 kilés le sac)	2	Kilé	0 06	8	1·25
Papier	Colis	1	Colis	2 00	1	2
Laines	Colis (2½ ql. la balle)	81	Quintal	1 20	202	303
Peaux ouvrées	" (2 qx. en moyenne)	35	"	3 00	70	210
Marchandises diverses	Caisses	57	Colis	2 00	57	114
"	Colis	385	"	2 00	385	770
Chariot	Pièce (voiture)	1	Pièce	10 00	1	10
Manufactures	Colis (3 qx. le colis)	41	Quintal	1 20	123	184·50
Pâte	Caisse	2	Colis	2 00	2	4
Racine de réglisse	Colis (1 qx. le colis)	3	Quintal	0 10	12	3
Fers usés	Quincaux	36	"	0 20	36	18
Galles	Sacs	4	Colis	2 00	4	8
Pois chiches	" (légumes secs, 1½ qx. le colis)	71	Quintal	1 00	177	177
Peaux vernies	Colis (1½ qx. le colis)	9	"	3 00	13½	40·50
Griottes	Sacs (fruits secs, 1½ ql. le colis)	30	"	1 00	45	45
Haricots	" (légumes secs, 2 qx. le colis)	21	"	1 00	42	42
Eau-de-vie (Rakí)	Baril	1	Colis	2 00	1	2
Mousse de chêne	Sacs	288	Sac	1 00	288	288
Total		8,289	..	..	..	11,674·50

Pour identité :
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
ÉLIE GUIFFRAY.

No. 94.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 14. Commercial. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 25, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of Major Trotter's Confidential Report on the Smyrna Quay question.

Your Lordship will find at the conclusion of the Report a short summary of the arrangements which would, in Major Trotter's opinion, fairly satisfy the parties interested, and to which he has reason to believe both the Porte and the Quay Company would agree. I propose, however, to defer addressing your Lordship on the subject until I shall have had the advantage of discussing the whole matter with Major Trotter, who is expected here in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

Smyrna, January 18, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith my Report on the Smyrna Quay question, prepared in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 17th November, 1881.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Report by Major Trotter on the Smyrna Quay Question, with relation to its proposed Settlement, on the basis of Mr. Jocelyn's Note to the Porte of April 18, 1877.

[N.B.—The references in margin marked P.P. refer to the pages in the Confidential Papers printed by the Foreign Office on the Smyrna Quay question.]

IN order to indicate clearly the points at issue, it is necessary to describe briefly the birth and progress of the Société des Quais. It would be easy to write a volume on the subject, but my object will be to avoid as much as possible all collateral issues, and restrict my remarks to the points immediately bearing on the practical settlement of the question.

See original Convention and "Cahier des Charges" attached to this Report, pp. 9 to 13, P.P.
See Map accompanying.

The original concession for the Smyrna Quays was granted in 1867 to a company of Englishmen.

It provided for the construction of a continuous quay, two miles* in length, and nineteen yards† in breadth, extending from the façade of the Impérial barracks on the south, to the station of the Smyrna and Aidin Railway on the north of the town. Arrangements were also made for the construction of a tramway along the whole length of the quay. The Company was to become absolute owner of the greater portion of the land reclaimed from the sea, and, in addition, obtained the right to levy charges on all merchandize embarked or disembarked at any point of the quay, according to a maximum tariff annexed to the Convention. Twelve per cent. of the gross receipts were to be paid over to the Imperial Government, to whom also the quay and tramway were to lapse twenty-five years after the completion of the projected works. In Article 17 of the Cahier des Charges annexed to the Convention, it was laid down that "les travaux de la Compagnie comprendront le quai et tout comblage devant la Douane, ainsi qu'en cas de demande des autorités Douanières et d'accord avec elles, l'affectation d'une espèce de mer comme bassin d'abri."

Art. 14.

No mention was made of the reservation of any space in front of the custom-house where goods might be landed free.

In consequence of this omission, representations were made by the British Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, and on the 1st April, 1868, Fuad Pasha, then Grand Vizier, wrote to Sir Henry Elliot—"Il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que lui occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne.

Page 9, P.P.

"Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point obligatoire pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer, comme aujourd'hui, à la Douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage."

See "Premier Acte Additionnel," pp. 15 and 16, P.P.

As the natural sequence to this declaration, the Porte modified the terms of its Convention with the Quay Company, and on the 29th October, 1868, the "Premier Acte Additionnel" was signed, in which it was laid down (Article 1), that "la Société laissera pour le moment une espace libre de 100 archines environ le long de l'emplacement actuel de la Douane de Smyrne, et s'abstiendra d'y construire un quai." The Turkish Government undertook, on the other hand, not to establish any other free landing place.

Article 2 declared that all goods landed or disembarked at a point in the free line should be exempted from quay dues.

Article 3 laid down that an account was to be kept of the dues that would have been paid for goods passing over the free line (had that line not been free), and after deduction of the 12 per cent. share of the Government, the amount so calculated was to be paid by the Turkish Government to the Quay Company, up to a maximum of £ T. 3,000 per annum, as a compensation to the Company for the loss of revenue entailed by the cession of the 100 archines for free commerce.

When, however, the receipts of the Company from quay dues might reach a total of £T. 20,000 per annum, after the payment of the 12 per cent. to the Government, the latter was no longer bound to pay any compensation.

As a further compensation, the Quay Company was relieved from its liability to be called on to construct a "bassin d'abri," but it was given permission to do so, if so minded.

* 4,300 archines, or rather more than 3 kilom.

Article 6 declared that in case of the Society being required to construct and fill up the quay in front of the custom-house, it would be authorized to receive the dues on goods landed at this part, the same as at any other part of the quay. Articles 1, 2, and 3 would then be cancelled.

The construction of the quay was proceeded with, but after a time the English Company was unable to raise funds to complete the work, and ultimately Messrs. Dussaud and Co., the contractors, after having spent large sums of money in construction, purchased the concession from the original grantees.

The first sections of the quay were finished early in 1872, and the first dues were levied in June of that year.

The simple quay wall along the whole frontage of the town of Smyrna was, however, quite insufficient to meet the requirements of trade, and although a great ornament and benefit to the town, it was of little use to commerce. Messrs. Dussaud accordingly constructed a large harbour, or *port d'abri*, said to be of 300,000 square metres superficies, where ships could lie and goods be safely landed in all weather. The quay tariff, however, laid down in the original concession, was so high, and the smells in the port were so offensive, that most ships preferred not to enter the port, but used the 100 free pikes in front of the custom-house. To such an extent was this the case, that in the year 1876, 131,400 tons of merchandize passed through the free space, while only 126,000 passed by the port and quays.

See plan

This state of things was naturally unpleasant to Messrs. Dussaud, and on the 21st August, 1876, these gentlemen, through their Constantinople agent, M. Roux de Lusignan, addressed a Memorandum to the British Ambassador, with the object of inducing him to sanction the closing of the 100 free pikes. They pointed out the undoubted superior advantages of the harbour actually constructed by them to the works originally planned. They added that "Plus de 500 navires, ainsi que les grands navires de toutes les Compagnies de Bateaux à Vapeur, trouvent dans le nouveau port un abri sûr et une profondeur et un espace suffisants pour amarrer à quai, *embarquer et débarquer leurs colis directement du quai au navire, et du navire au quai, sans intermédiaires*,* sans aucune perte de temps, sans aucun retard, par tous les temps, et sans crainte de subir les avaries ou des dégâts d'aucune sorte." As an inducement to the Ambassador to withdraw his opposition, they stated that they had made the following propositions to the Porte:—

Pages 136 to 138, P.P.

"1. Suppression des 100 archines devant la Douane, et comme conséquence naturelle, achèvement du quai, ce qui permettra à la caserne et au conak de n'être plus isolés des quartiers les plus vivants de la ville.

Page 137, P.P.

"2. Transfert de la Douane dans le nouveau port, par conséquent, édification d'une nouvelle Douane aux frais et risques de la Société.

"3. Construction à ses frais sur le port et près de la nouvelle Douane, d'une gare commune aux deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba, ce qui aura pour résultat de relier ces deux voies ferrées au tramway, que la Société est occupée en ce moment d'établir sur les quais. Ce relèment rapprochera les gares des chemins de fer de la Douane, ce qui procurera aussi au commerce de grandes économies sur les frais de transport.

"4. Construction d'entrepôts, de magasins, et de hangars pour le commerce sur les jetées sud et nord du port d'abri, et la Société porterait à 30 mètres la largeur de ces jetées.

"5. Construction des offices de Santé, des Phares, du Capitaine du Port, et des Passeports sur le port d'abri.

"6. Achèvement par expropriation à la charge de la Société de la nouvelle rue parallèle au quai, et pavage de cette rue et du quai et des rues transversales nouvelles.

"7. Amélioration du système des égouts.

"8. Endiguement du Môles.

"9. La Société renonce aussi en faveur du Gouvernement à toutes les sommes qu'elle est en droit de réclamer de lui par application de l'Article 3 de l'Acte Additionnel du 12 Rédjeb, 1285, relatif aux 100 archines, et cela depuis l'origine de la concession jusqu'au moment où la lacune des 100 archines se trouvera comblée, soit une somme ronde de £ T. 12,000.

"10. Enfin la Société réduit en faveur du commerce son Tarif actuel de 30 pour cent. Jusqu'ici les négociants payaient en moyenne générale pour 1,000 kilog. 3 fr. 75 c., à l'avenir ils ne paieront plus que 2 fr. 75 c."

* The italics are mine.—H. T.

The British Ambassador referred these propositions through Her Majesty's Consul to the merchants of Smyrna for report, and at a meeting of merchants engaged in British trade on the 27th February, 1877, those gentlemen stated that they were prepared to surrender the 100 free pikes on the following conditions being carried out:—

Page 32, P.P. "1. Réduction du Tarif, positive et réelle, de 30 pour cent d'un commun accord avec le commerce.

"La question du transfert de la Douane et celle du raccordement des deux chemins de fer élucidées en vue de sauvegarder les divers intérêts qui y sont attachés.

"3. Construction d'abris pour la marchandise qui embarque et qui débarque.

"4. Une bonification de 50 pour cent sur le Tarif réduit accordée aux négociants dans le cas où les bâtiments ne feraient point leurs opérations bord à quai.

"5. A la condition absolue et *sine qui non* que le projet d'égouts et de pavage soit adopté et exécuté."

On the 14th April, 1877, the Sublime Porte wrote to ask whether Her Majesty's Government agreed to the propositions of Messrs. Dussaud, and on the 18th of the same month Mr. Jocelyn, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, sent a *note verbale* to the Porte, stating that Her Majesty's Government was willing to consent to the retrocession of the 100 free pikes on the following five conditions:—

"1. That the existing Tariff of quay dues be reduced in such a manner as shall satisfy all parties concerned.

"2. That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the concession.

"3. That the Sublime Porte engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the concession without restoring the present access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

"4. That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed dock the smell which it is represented frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

"5. That the Company undertake the repavement of the streets, and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish."

I propose subsequently dealing with these five points *seriatim*, and shall endeavour to show to what extent these conditions have been carried out, and what practical arrangements can be made to insure the future fulfilment of the whole.

Before doing so, however, it is necessary to glance at subsequent proceedings.

Pages 48 to 54, P.P. Following this conditional acceptance by Her Majesty's Government of the closing of the free space, a new and second "Acte Additionel" was agreed to between the Porte and the Société, and was signed on the 18th May, 1878.

By Article 1 the Porte authorized the Society to construct a quay in front of the 100 free archines at the old custom-house.

In Articles 2 and 3 the Society undertook the construction of the aforesaid quay (becoming the proprietors of the land reclaimed). The quay was to be completed within two years of date of signature. The Société also bound itself to carry out the following works:—

Second "Acte Additionel," pp. 48, 49, P.P. "2. Le pavage et les bordures des trottoirs de la rue parallèle de la Douane à la pointe, et des rues transversales de la rue parallèle au quai. Ce pavage devra être fait sur le même modèle, en dalles carrées, établi déjà sur les quais de 25 archines.

"3. Pour établir le pavage décrit au paragraphe 2 ci-dessus du présent Article, la Société s'engage à payer les indemnités des constructions à être démolies sur le parcours de la rue parallèle, indemnités fixées par l'autorité locale à la somme de £ T. 5,500, que la Société des Quais remettra à l'autorité locale au fur et à mesure que ces constructions seront démolies.

"4. La prolongation de la rue parallèle jusqu'au Palais du Gouvernement, soit directement en passant sur l'espace de 100 pics libres qui seront remblayés, soit en la déviant derrière la Douane actuelle.

"5. La construction et l'élargissement des égouts publics qui se raccorderont à ceux déjà construits par la Société des Quais, en conformité des indications portées sur le plan déjà cité et annexé au présent Acte.

"Si pendant la construction on en voyait la nécessité, la Société s'engage de prolonger encore de 500 pics les égouts déjà construits par elle.

"6. L'exécution à ses frais et risques de tous les travaux nécessaires pour empêcher à l'avenir les inondations de la ville de Smyrne par les eaux de Méliès.

"7. L'élargissement de la jetée sud du port d'abri qui aura 50 mètres de largeur sur toute sa longueur jusqu'à l'angle ouest du port. La Société des Quais aura la faculté d'établir, sur cette jetée, des magasins et des hangars pour l'usage du commerce.

"8. La construction sur la jetée nord du port d'abri des offices de la Santé, des postes et télégraphes, des phares, du bureau des passeports, et du Capitaine du Port et de la poissonnerie, conformément au plan déjà présenté et annexé au présent Acte.

"Ces constructions devront être terminées au plus tard dans douze mois après la date du présent Acte.

"9. La construction des magasins à charbon sur la jetée ouest, et afin d'abriter les navires qui feront des opérations derrière la nouvelle douane ainsi que devant la gare centrale des chemins de fer, la jetée de sud-ouest sera prolongée à partir de l'angle au moins de 100 mètres vers le sud.

"10. La construction aux frais de la Société d'une nouvelle grande douane sur la jetée sud du port d'abri conformément au plan approuvé. Cette douane devra être construite sur une superficie de 9,000 mètres carrés. Les angles et les bordures des fenêtres et des portes seront en pierres, les traverses en fer, et les autres parties en briques.

"11. Le jour où les deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba s'accorderaient, la Société des Quais s'engage d'établir et de construire sur le terrain de l'ancienne douane, à ses frais et risques, une grande gare pour leur usage. La Société des Quais, d'accord avec les Compagnies des Chemins de Fer, établira les conditions et les frais pour la circulation de leurs trains sur la voie ferrée de la Société des Quais. Pour prévenir tout danger et éviter les accidents, la Société, d'accord avec l'autorité locale, devra adopter les mesures nécessaires à cet effet. En outre, à la condition de poser des contre-rails, la Société pourra se servir de la traction par locomotives pour le transport des marchandises sur cette voie. Toutefois, la traction par la vapeur ne pourra se faire qu'à partir de minuit jusqu'à 8 heures du matin."

Article 4 gives a delay of five years for the completion of the above works, with the exception of the quay and the items 8 and 10, which had to be completed within two years.

Article 5 cancels Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the first "Acte Additionel," and gives the Society the exclusive right of levying quay dues "sur la totalité des marchandises débarquées et embarquées, sous le contrôle direct de l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, en conformité des Règlements Douaniers et par accord avec cette Administration."

The new Tariff of quay dues attached to the "Acte" was to come into force as soon as the new custom-house was completed, and the Customs establishment transferred to the new site.

Twelve per cent. of the gross dues collected to be paid to the Porte from the date of the enforcement of the new Tariff.

All arrears due by the Porte on account of the 100 free archines were to be cancelled.

By Article 6 merchandize taken from one ship to another, both or one of them being in the "port d'abri" (the harbour), without passing the quay, also merchandize in transit, merely landed provisionally to be re-embarked on another boat, were to pay half the maximum Tariff.

Article 7 provided for the prolongation of the duration of the concession by fifteen years, *i.e.*, up to the end of the year A.D. 1912. Attached to the "Acte" was a copy of the new Tariff now in force, which has lately been the subject of the joint Report of Portugal Michael Effendi and myself. Pages 51 to 53, P.P.

This second "Acte" bore date 18th May, 1878, and its general purport was published in the Smyrna local papers shortly afterwards; but the new Tariff was not known to the public till early in 1880, shortly before the forcible closing of the 100 free pikes and the simultaneous opening of the new custom-house, and the enforcement of the new Tariff. The history of those transactions has been fully reported on by Mr. Consul Dennis,* and it is not necessary that I should enter into it except to state that on the closing of the free space Said Pasha, the Prime Minister, in a telegraphic despatch to the Vali of Smyrna of date

* *Vide* Mr. Consul Dennis' despatches of November 27, 1879, p. 34, P.P., and many others.

29th April,* and Sawas Pasha, in a despatch to the Ambassador† a few days later on, both stated that the only question at issue was that of the Tariff, and that the Société had agreed that should the new Tariff be subsequently reduced, it would return to the merchants any excess of dues levied by them in the interim.

The old custom-house, with its free space in front, was closed on the 1st May, 1880, and the new custom-house, on the south jetty of the harbour, was opened on the same day.

Her Majesty's Ambassador, after protesting against this arbitrary action on the part of the Porte, directed a register to be kept in the British Consulate of all quay-dues paid on English goods, with a view to their ultimate repayment by the Turkish Government.

The new Tariff already alluded to came into operation on the same day, and has been in force ever since.

There can be no manner of doubt that the new Tariff was not of a nature to satisfy all parties concerned. It was, moreover, promulgated and enforced without ever having been submitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador, to Her Majesty's Consul, or to the merchants of Smyrna for examination and approval, and up to the present time has never been officially communicated to the Embassy by the Porte.

It is thus clear that the very first condition on which Her Majesty's Government agreed to the retrocession of the 100 free pikes has never been complied with, and that the mercantile community of Smyrna have been abundantly justified in crying out loudly, as they have, against the arbitrary enforcement of the new Tariff. There have been many other just grounds of complaint, both as to the powers claimed to have been conferred on the Société by the second "Acte Additionnel," and as to the manner in which those powers have been enforced, and in some cases exceeded. *Inter alia*, I would particularly mention the claim of the Société to levy duties on all goods shipped in the Bay of Smyrna, whether the harbour and quays be made use of or not. These subjects will all be considered in detail later on.

Since the closing of the free-space, Parnis Effendi, legal adviser to the Porte, was sent down to Smyrna to make a general inquiry on the subject of the Smyrna quays, whilst, later on, Mr. St. John was sent by the British Ambassador with the same object.

The Reports of these gentlemen, dated respectively the 1st July and the 28th November, 1880, will be found in the printed Correspondence, pp. 107 and 113.

The Porte subsequently appointed a Commission at Constantinople to inquire into the whole question, whose Report, dated the 4th June, 1881, was unofficially communicated to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and will be found at p. 126 of the printed Correspondence.

This Report was based principally on that of Parnis Effendi, and, although there are some inaccurate statements in the body of the document, the practical results arrived at appear to be fairly satisfactory, and may, in my opinion, with advantage be taken as a basis for further negotiations.

I abstain from commenting on those proposals until after a detailed examination of the different points at issue.

It is evident from the foregoing that the Turkish Government has entered into two incompatible contracts—one with Her Majesty's Ambassador, representing the British merchants at Smyrna, who agreed to the cession of the free space on certain well-defined conditions, one of which involved a reduction of Tariff in a manner to satisfy all parties concerned; and the other with the French Société des Quais, who were authorized to levy charges on a Tariff which has hitherto been supposed to have been higher than the old one, but which, as appears from the joint Report recently submitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador, in reality shows a reduction of at least 12½ per cent. Two separate remedies have been proposed; the first that all past negotiations on the subject be ignored, and that the right of free access be demanded to the present custom-house in lieu of the right of access formerly existing to the old; the second, that a fresh arrangement be come to on the basis of the fulfilment of the five conditions laid down in Mr. Jocelyn's *note verbale* of the 18th April. I have on a former occasion shown that the first remedy would be not only unjust to the Société des Quais, which, whatever its failings, has conferred great benefits on the town and trade of Smyrna, but would also, if not absolutely impracticable, be extremely difficult of execution.

* Communicated by the Vali to Consul Dennis (Vice-Consul Dennis to Sir H. Layard, May 2, 1880, Inclosure 4), p. 83, P.P.

† Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard, May 1, 1880, p. 79, P.P.

It is now my task to show that the alternative solution, on the basis of Mr. Jocelyn's note, is not only practicable, but ought, if fairly carried out, to be acceptable to the commerce of Smyrna.

Condition I.—*That the existing Tariff of Quay Dues be reduced in such manner as shall satisfy all parties concerned.*

The Tariff here spoken of is the Tariff attached to the original Convention of the 27th November, 1867, and was in force from the opening of the first sections of the quay on the 10th June, 1872, up to the 1st May, 1880. It was levied on all goods passing over the Smyrna quays, which formed a continuous line of quay in front of the town, broken only by the space in front of the 100 arcbines of custom-house frontage, over which the merchants had the right to pass their goods free of charge.

It appears from the documents already quoted that, when negotiating, in 1876, for the suppression of the 100 free pikes, Messrs. Dussaud offered, among other inducements, a reduction of 30 per cent. on the then existing Tariff; also that in the following year, one of the conditions on which the Smyrna merchants agreed to surrender the free space was a reduction of Tariff "positive et réelle de 30 pour cent." It may therefore fairly be assumed that all parties concerned ought reasonably to have been satisfied had the new Tariff shown a *bonâ fide* reduction of 30 per cent. on the old.

But what are the facts of the case? While the negotiations were pending the Messrs. Dussaud communicated to the parties interested the proposed new Tariff, which has been called the "Tarif Modifié." This Tariff was, in December 1876, submitted to a very detailed critical examination by Mr. A. O. Clarke, of Smyrna, and the results obtained by that gentleman, which were forwarded by Mr. Consul Reade to the Embassy in 1878,* showed a reduction of 1 per cent. only instead of the promised 30 per cent. But M. Dussaud had informed Mr. Clarke that further reductions would be made, which Mr. Clarke calculated would make a further reduction of 8 per cent. It is only fair, however, to Messrs. Dussaud, to state that Mr. Clarke's calculations did not include the coasting trade, which would probably have shown a considerable further reduction.

This "Tarif Modifié," however, died a natural death, and the Tariff, which was actually attached to, and formed a part of, the second "Acte Additionnel," was entirely different. The latter, which is the one now actually in force, bears the date of the 7/8th May, 1878; but it was kept a secret until early in 1880, shortly before the closing of the 100 pikes. It is the comparison of this Tariff with the original one that forms the subject of the joint Report of Portugal Michaël Effendi and myself recently submitted to Her Majesty's Embassy. Page 51, P.P.

The result of our joint examination of the two Tariffs, maximum to maximum, with reference to the exports and imports of a given year, showed, in my opinion, a reduction of 12·40 per cent.; in that of my colleague of 13·55 per cent. But the Société had of its own accord, since the suppression of the 100 pikes, made reductions in its charges on certain articles, and giving it the benefit of these reductions, and of other reductions due to an amended interpretation of the articles regarding transit dues, all of which the Société gave us its written declaration to maintain in case of a final satisfactory settlement, we obtained a final reduction of 17·88 per cent., according to my calculations, and of 21·54 per cent. according to those of my colleague. We pointed out, however, that as the reduction was much larger on exported goods than on imported goods, the difference between the two Tariffs would be increased or diminished in different years according as the exports or imports exceeded those of the year under review.

Now the Commission appointed last year by the Porte, to which I have already alluded, recommended the Imperial Government to abandon the 12 per cent. of the gross receipts of the Company to which the Government was entitled, to be applied to a reduction of the Tariff on certain articles, according to the recommendations of a Commission which it was proposed to appoint at Smyrna. Assuming that the Imperial Government act on this recommendation, and taking my own estimate of the present actual and ulterior reductions, we should obtain a further reduction of 12 per cent. on (100-17·88), *i.e.*, a total reduction of 27·73 per cent.; or taking the calculations of my colleague, we have a further reduction of 12 per cent. on (100-21·54), *i.e.*, a total reduction of 30·71 per cent., *either of which results is so near*

* Consul Reade to Mr. Layard, May 16, 1878, p. 142, P.P. See also p. 193.

30 per cent. that I consider this concession on the part of the Porte ought fairly to satisfy all parties concerned, provided, at least, that my subsequent recommendations be carried out.

But there are other points connected with the Tariff question which imperatively demand notice.

(A.) It is necessary to indicate briefly why, until the recent examinations of the Tariff by Portugal Effendi and myself, there has been such great difference of opinion as to whether the new Tariff showed a large reduction on the old, as maintained by the Société des Quais, or a very small reduction, or even an increase, as maintained by some who had looked at the subject from another point of view. An examination of our joint Report on the Tariff will show—

1. That by my calculations, although there is a total decrease, maximum to maximum, of 12·46 per cent., yet that this is most unequally divided between imports and exports.

Imports show a decrease of 2·37 per cent. only on 1,646,009 piastres, while exports show a decrease of 23·41 per cent. on 1,526,663 piastres.

2. That on a division into classes we find that in one special class of articles, viz., those which in the old Tariff were taxed according to the number of bales, packages, or sacks, and in the new Tariff have been taxed by weight, the exports, instead of a reduction, show the large increase of 17·41 per cent. on a total of 502,117 piastres. In imports the same class of articles show an increase of 17·18 per cent. on a total of 530,250 piastres. It is thus very evident that the Tariff has been largely raised on a great many articles, and this has given rise to the erroneous impression that the new Tariff as a whole was higher than the old one; but in point of fact the reductions on other articles have more than counterbalanced those increases by 12·46 per cent. The articles on which the Tariff has been largely raised are for the most part English manufactured goods, and certain important articles of export, such as raw cotton, wool, and opium. In our calculations we took into consideration the coasting as well as the foreign trade. Had the former been omitted the apparent reduction would have been very much less. The same may be said of building materials, fresh fruit, vegetables, &c., which are not strictly articles of commerce, and on which the duties have been largely diminished, a reduction for which the Society has been given credit in our calculations.

(B.) Assuming that the Porte is willing to concede its 12 per cent. share of the gross revenue for the purpose of lowering the present Tariff, the question at once arises as to how this reduction can most fairly be applied. It has been suggested that the best arrangement would be to put aside altogether the present Tariff, and reduce the old one by 30 per cent. all round. I believe, however, that such a project would be strenuously opposed, not only by the Société des Quais, but by those merchants who deal largely in articles that have been already reduced more than 30 per cent. on the old Tariff, and who would find their charges increased instead of diminished by the proposed change. I propose to apply this 12 per cent. to reduce the present Tariff.

(*a.*) On such raw articles as are by common consent admitted to be over-taxed, such as iron, coal, wool and cotton.

(*b.*) On such articles as are more highly taxed in the new than in the old Tariff: this arrangement is but fair to those merchants who were promised a decrease on the old Tariff, and instead of a decrease found an increase. The new Tariff would have to be drawn up by a Commission appointed *ad hoc* to sit at Smyrna, and base its decisions in conformity with the advice of the mercantile community. To avoid the errors of the past, it should be distinctly laid down that there shall in no case be any augmentation of existing dues.

The propositions made on this subject by the Constantinople Commission were that a Commission should be formed at Smyrna under the presidency of the Governor-General, of merchants of all nationalities, to be selected by his Excellency; but I am of opinion that a special Commission such as that which has recently examined the question of the Tariffs would be more effective in securing the results required. The new Tariff drawn up by the Commission appointed for the purpose should work on the basis of the attested documents accompanying our joint Report. The Tariff should be made as full and complete as possible. In the words of our Report, it is necessary "faire entrer dans le corps du Tarif en vigueur les droits que la Société des Quais applique actuellement aux articles non-dénommés et dont l'assimilation aura été reconnue juste et régulière, de manière que le Tarif prévoie tous les cas qu'une expérience de dix ans a mis en évidence, et que la

Société se trouve le moins possible dans la nécessité d'appliquer des taxes *ad valorem*. Les droits établis par analogie ne devront jamais dépasser ceux qui ont servi de base aux relevés annexés au Rapport.

"On devra également indiquer nettement le cas dans lesquels les marchandises pourront jouir du demi droit de transit, et modifier les taxes des articles d'après les réductions que la Société s'est engagée à maintenir, ainsi que celles des articles qui profiteront de l'abandon des 12 pour cent revenant au Gouvernement dans le cas où cette part des recettes brutes serait employée à abaisser les droits de quai.

"Enfin, obliger la Société à donner la plus grande publicité possible au Tarif détaillé et clair qui serait à élaborer."

(C.) It is necessary that I should state that no full and general Tariff has hitherto been issued or published—the printed Tariff attached to the second "Acte Additionnel" was, it is true, printed by the Société in the local newspapers, but it is very incomplete—so that for any article not enumerated in the original Tariff the merchant has to apply to the Société for information as to what tax he has to pay, and there is nothing to prevent the Société from changing from time to time the taxes on such unenumerated articles. It is only fair, however, to the Society to say that in the numerous cases of assimilation which we examined in the course of our joint inquiry, we found that for the most part they had been justly and fairly made; but if there be no published legal Tariff the door is manifestly open to great irregularities, and I have heard numerous well-founded complaints of petty cases where the taxes have been arbitrarily and apparently unjustly fixed by some employé of the Company.

The Director of the Société explained to me that the reason of his not having published detailed copies of the Tariff was that until affairs were finally settled he was afraid the Porte might take advantage of any reductions he might voluntarily make, and insist on those reductions being made permanent. When once a final settlement is made such a reason will no longer have a *raison d'être*, and it will be to the advantage of all parties concerned to have a clear, unmistakeable Tariff.

(D.) This brings us to another frequent source of complaint, which it appears might be easily remedied. Hitherto whenever any difference of opinion on some trivial matter has arisen between the merchants and the Société, the latter has always been the judge of its own cause, and could always enforce its judgment by refusing to permit the removal of the merchandize from the custom-house until its claims were settled. When it is a matter of the recovery of a few piastres, it is not worth the while of the merchant to run the risk of losing large sums of money in legal expenses, with the risk, too, of non-success. It seems, therefore, necessary to arrange for some system of arbitration for the settlement of disputes.

In Article 5 of the second "Acte Additionnel," provision is made for the settlement by arbitration of disputes referring to the average size of parcels of merchandize, which are taxed by volume and not by weight; but this is the solitary exception to the rule laid down in Article 24 of the original "Cahier des Charges," that all disputes between the Society and other private parties should be heard before the Tribunals of the Empire.

It would seem easy to extend the proviso in Article 5, as above quoted, so as to meet other small matters in dispute, and M. Guilfray, the Director of the Société, has expressed his willingness to make some such arrangement.

(E.) In our joint Report on the Tariff we have exposed at length the abuses of the system of contracts that exist between the Société and certain navigation Companies, by which the aforesaid Companies bind themselves to pay to the Société a fixed rate of 5 fr. per ton for all merchandize landed at Smyrna, which includes quay and landing charges, and which practically does away altogether with the legal Tariff of quay charges for all articles imported by such steamers—besides giving rise to numerous other abuses—which have been fully and forcibly described in our Report. I regard it as a *sine qua non* that these contracts be done away with at the earliest opportunity. Notice by either party to cancel the existing contract must be given before the 31st March, 1882, or the contracts will last for another year.

There remains another important question to be discussed before we can leave the question of Tariff, viz., that of the transit duties.

(F.) It will be recollected that in the first "Acte Additionnel" the Société was given permission to construct a "bassin d'abri," although it was not compelled to

do so. In order to facilitate trade and attract the merchant from the free space to the quays, the Société constructed a large "bassin d'abri," which it considers as its private property, and on this ground, although not legally competent to do so, it was in the habit of charging half-quay dues on all goods transhipped within the harbour without passing over the quay. In the second "Acte Additionnel" this system was legalized, and the following Rules with reference to transit duties were laid down :—

"Les marchandises transbordées d'un navire à l'autre, tous les deux se trouvant dans le port d'abri, ou l'un des deux seulement, celles encore qui seraient chargées sur un navire ancré dans le port et qui viendraient de l'extérieur, enfin les marchandises en transit qui seraient débarquées à quai pour être de nouveau embarquées, sans qu'aucun changement ait été opéré dans leurs emballages, marques, et poids, ces marchandises dans les trois cas stipulés ci-dessus ne paieront que la moitié des droits de quai."

It was explained in our joint Report on the Tariff that the commerce of Smyrna had not obtained the full advantages to which it is entitled under the above Rules.

1. The Société interpreted the words "qui seraient débarquées à quai pour être de nouveau embarquées" to imply that it must be declared and intended previous to disembarkation that the goods shall be ultimately re-embarked, or, in other words, that it must be so stated in the ship's manifest; and, in practice, they have only given the merchants the benefit under this Rule when the goods were declared in the manifest as being for transit. If not so declared merchants have had to pay double dues on goods that have been disembarked at the custom-house, even when they were re-embarked on the same day.

On the representations of Portugal Effendi and myself, however, M. Guilfray, the Director of the Société, has declared that in future "Toutes les marchandises qui seront débarquées en Douane et qui, sans en être sorties et sans avoir subi aucunes modifications, ni dans leurs marques, ni dans leurs poids, ni dans leurs emballages, seront réembarquées dans un délai maximum de trois mois, seront considérées par la Société des Quais comme marchandise en transit et ne paieront qu'un seul demi droit de quai. Quant aux marchandises débarquées en dehors de la Douane sur une partie quelconque des quais, dans les conditions générales précitées pour celles mises en Douane, il est difficile que la Société puisse adopter à leur égard une mesure identique; parce que aucune marchandise ne peut séjourner plus de vingt-quatre heures sur une voie qui sert à tout le monde et qui serait encombrée bien vite si on accordait de pareilles tolérances.

"S'il était fait quelques exceptions à cette règle générale ce ne serait qu'en échange d'un droit de stationnement dont la Société frapperait la marchandise restée ainsi sur le quai plus de vingt-quatre heures, afin de ne pas encourager l'encombrement par l'impunité; et encore faudrait-il, pour que cette marchandise fût considérée en transit par la Société des Quais, que le propriétaire eût fait auprès des employés de cette Société et au moment ou avant le débarquement une déclaration précise et formelle."

To prevent encumbrance on the quays, M. Guilfray proposes to form floating magazines for articles in transit, where goods might be left and stored for a moderate charge. The idea appears a good one.

Owing to the contracts between the Society and the Steam-ship Companies, the former often insist on landing all goods at the custom-house, whether they be intended for transhipment or not, and merchants thus often lose the benefit accruing from the rule by which goods transhipped from one vessel to another pay only half dues. A case of this kind occurred while our Commission was at Smyrna, but the matter was arranged satisfactorily on reference to M. Guilfray.

Complaints have been made that on various occasions claims have been made for the payment of quay dues on goods transhipped, both vessels being outside the port. This is clearly illegal, as neither port nor quays are made use of, and it appears desirable that in future a rule shall be distinctly laid down that when goods are transhipped between two vessels, both of them outside the port, no quay dues can be demanded.

As the vessels of the contracting Steam Navigation Companies are, by the terms of their contract, bound to enter the harbour, the cessation of these contracts will give an additional boon to transit trade by enabling transhipments in certain cases to be made outside the harbour, and therefore free of charge.

There can, I think, be no doubt, from the peculiar geographical position of

Smyrna, that the greater the facilities given to transit trade, the greater the benefit that will accrue to the Société from the direct trade with the neighbouring coast and islands, a trade which, from a variety of causes, has of late years considerably diminished in favour of Syra and other places.

Condition II.—*That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the Concession.*

Condition III.—*That the Sublime Porte engage itself not to increase the Dues after the expiration of the Concession without restoring the present access to the Custom-house free of Quay Dues.*

These two conditions may with advantage be considered together. They appear at first sight to constitute a very simple question, which is disposed of in the report of the Turkish Commission appointed by the Porte to inquire into the Smyrna Quay question in the following words :—

"C'est à la Sublime Porte de décider s'il y aurait oui ou non lieu d'écrire à l'Ambassade Britannique que le Gouvernement Impérial a l'intention de maintenir les Tarifs réduits jusqu'à la fin de la concession, et de ne pas les élever à l'expiration de cette concession."

But a very important question had previously arisen which the Commission abstained from noticing, viz., a claim put in by the Société on the strength of the careless wording of Article 5 of the second "Acte Additionnel," which, if admitted, would not, it is true, have raised the actual Tariff, but, worse still, would have had the effect of extending the sphere over which dues could be levied, and would have given the Société the right to levy quay dues where no quay or port exists, and where absolutely no service whatever is rendered. This claim has given just cause of alarm to the mercantile community of Smyrna, and is of such great importance in the future that it is necessary to discuss it at considerable length.

In Article V of the French translation of the second "Acte Additionnel" we find the following :—"En conformité de l'Article 6 du premier Acte Additionnel du 12 Rédjeb, 1285, et en conséquence de la construction du quai devant la Douane, les Articles 1, 2, 3, et 4 du dit Acte Additionnel sont déclarés nuls et non avenus. La Société des Quais aura le privilège exclusif de percevoir les droits de quai sur la totalité des marchandises débarquées et embarquées, sous le contrôle direct de l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, en conformité des Règlements Douaniers et par accord avec cette Administration. La perception de ces droits aura lieu d'après le Tarif spécifié à l'Article 6, ci-après, et commencera immédiatement après le transfert de la Douane à son nouvel emplacement."

Now a careful examination of the wording of this paragraph shows that it may convey two entirely different meanings, according to whether or no there is a comma after the word *embarquées*. In the former case it implies that all merchandize should be embarked or disembarked under the supervision of the Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne, and the phrase is used in the same sense as in the seventh Article of the same "Acte Additionnel," where, with reference to the new Douane, it is laid down that "la Société des Quais ajoutera à cette superficie 600 mètres carrés sur lesquels, *d'accord avec l'Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne*, elle construira les magasins nécessaires."

But if, on the other hand, there be no comma after the word *embarquées*, the phrase *might* imply that all merchandize embarked or disembarked within the jurisdiction of the Administration des Contributions Indirectes de Smyrne should pay quay dues, *i.e.*, that dues might be levied in all parts of the Smyrna Bay.

Although, in point of fact, in the official French translation, viz., that printed by the Society itself in Smyrna (a copy of which is attached to this Report), the comma does exist, yet the Société has actually claimed under this Article the right to levy dues on all goods embarked or disembarked at any point of the Bay of Smyrna, and although this claim has hitherto been successfully resisted, it has never, as far as I am aware, been withdrawn, and it is extremely important to the commerce of Smyrna that it should be clearly and distinctly laid down by the Ottoman Government that the right claimed does not exist.

An examination of the Turkish original (a copy of which is inclosed) shows that the French translation is not correctly worded; the original text is more clear, although an ambiguous meaning has also been claimed for it. The overwhelming point, however, against the claim of the Société is, that in the Turkish text the

term "Moukhafeza-i-liman" (*port d'abri*) is used. This word has been omitted in the official French translation. The true translation would appear to be "La Compagnie aura le privilège exclusif de percevoir les droits de quai sur la totalité des marchandises, lesquelles entrant dans le port d'abri ou en sortant devront être débarquées ou embarquées sous le contrôle et la surveillance de la Direction Douanière, et en conformité des Règlements Douaniers."

Now, in the original "Cahier des Charges," Article 15, it is written, "Le Gouvernement Impérial concède, en outre, à la Compagnie, en considération des charges, risques, et périls qu'elle s'impose, le privilège de percevoir pendant la durée de la concession un droit d'embarquement et de débarquement sur toutes marchandises d'entrée ou de sortie par le quai en question—dans toute son étendue." This clearly gives no right to levy dues elsewhere than on the quay, and as this Article has never been abrogated, and it is specially laid down in Article 10 of the second "Acte Additionnel," that "Toutes les conditions, les stipulations, et les clauses de la Convention relative à la construction des quais de Smyrne du Cahier des Charges du Chaban 1284 (27th November, 1867), et de l'Acte Additionnel du 12 Rédjeb, 1285, qui ne sont pas abrogées ou modifiées par le présent second Acte Additionnel, conservent toute leur force et valeur," it is clear that as no *port d'abri* was provided for in the first "Acte Additionnel," and provision was only made for levying dues on the quay, it became necessary to give a legal right to levy dues on goods embarked or disembarked in the *port d'abri*, a work that was constructed in the interval between the signing of the first and second "Actes Additionnels." It is only this right that is conceded in Article 5 of the second "Acte," and the extended powers claimed by the Société would seem to have no *raison-d'être*.

The question was first of all brought to the notice of the Marquis of Salisbury by Mr. Consul Dennis, in his despatch of the 27th February, 1880, and on the 21st May following, a few days after the closing of the free space, Mr. Dennis informed Sir H. Layard that the Quay Company were putting in force their claims under Article 5, although Mr. Dennis had himself been informed by the Governor-General of Smyrna that this Article was incorrectly translated from the Turkish original, and did not bear the signification put on it by the Société.

Page 89, P.P. In his despatch of the 7th June, 1880, Mr. Dennis called the attention of his Excellency the Ambassador to a case where the Company claimed the right of levying dues on a cargo of coal which the owner wished to land at Karatash, a point in the Smyrna Bay, distant nearly two miles from the south extremity of the quay.

Pages 89 and 90, P.P. Some days later on the question came to a crisis between the Quay Company and the Ottoman Railway Company (as described in detail in Mr. Dennis' despatch of the 24th June, with inclosures). In this case the Quay Company were apparently actively and energically supported by the local Customs authorities; but thanks to Mr. Dennis' active intervention, the Society failed in its attempt. Later on Mr. Goschen, in a *note verbale* addressed to the Porte on the 21st July, uses the following forcible language:—

Pages 96 and 97, P.P. "It is with considerable surprise that Her Majesty's Embassy observes in the note under reply an allusion, although a passing one, to an alleged attempt to evade in this instance some regulations of the Smyrna Quay Company. Against such an attempt, even by implication, to claim for that Company a right to impose quay dues where there are no quays, Her Majesty's Embassy feels it a duty to protest in the strongest possible manner. Such a pretension on the part of the Quay Company being in direct opposition to the formal engagement entered into by the Sublime Porte with Her Majesty's Government in 1868, when his late Highness Fuad Pasha, on the very day that the project for the construction of a port and quay at Smyrna was first sanctioned by the Imperial Government, addressed a note to Sir H. Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, in which, after referring to the great advantages and facilities that would accrue to commerce from the realization of the Smyrna Quay scheme, he gave the Ambassador the assurance that British interests would in such case be thoroughly safeguarded, in the following emphatic words:—

"'Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités, il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que leur occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne.

"'Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point obligatoire pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer

comme aujourd'hui, à la Douane, le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage.'

"And yet, in the face of this assurance, the Customs authorities at Smyrna persist in demanding payment of quay dues on goods which not only do not pass over the quay, but have the right, specially secured to them by a Convention, of embarking from the pier of the Ottoman Railway without passing through the custom-house at all."

It might be argued, in reply to this, that as the free space in front of the custom-house has been suppressed, the Turkish Government is no longer bound by this reservation, to which the obvious answer would be that such an argument cannot be allowed, considering that the conditions under which Her Majesty's Government agreed to the suppression of the free space have not yet been carried out. The present, therefore, would seem a favourable opportunity for obtaining from the Porte a distinct declaration that no quay dues should be imposed where there are no quays.

Parnis Effendi, the Délégué of the Sublime Porte, in his Report of the 1st July, 1880, in an ingenious but very feeble argument, maintained the right of the Company to levy dues on all goods landed or embarked within the jurisdiction of the Smyrna Custom-house; but he is apparently half-ashamed of the course he recommends, for he concludes by saying: "Ces raisons ont paru au Soussigné suffisantes pour justifier le maintien de la perception intégrale des droits de quai, ou, au moins, la perception de la moitié de ces droits sur toute marchandise embarquée et débarquée hors des quais et dans les limites de la circonscription Douanière de Smyrne." Page 115, P.P., Art. 4.

"Cette règle, dans l'opinion du Soussigné, doit s'appliquer aux marchandises embarquées ou débarquées aux échelles que les Compagnies des Chemins de Fer d'Aidin et de Cassaba ont été autorisées à établir pour leur trafic."

It is due to the Turkish Government to say that they have not adopted Parnis Effendi's views, as was told me by that gentleman himself three months ago in Constantinople.

But although the Turkish Government has practically declined to admit the claims of the Société, I am not aware that it has ever communicated this decision to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and it is most desirable that this should be done, as I believe that the claims of the Société *are merely lying dormant, and have not been withdrawn*.

There is another matter, however, to which attention should be given. Although I have, I think, conclusively shown that the Society has no right to levy dues unless the harbour or quays be made use of, it is, I understand, a fact that the Custom-house authorities have the right to compel all foreign goods embarked or disembarked in the Bay of Smyrna to do so at or from the custom-house. In the matter of imports, on which the Customs duties amount to an *ad valorem* tax of 8 per cent., it has been the general rule to insist on all goods being landed at the custom-house, the only exceptions being in favour of bulky articles, such as timber, stone, coal, &c., and petroleum (which latter is not allowed to be stored inside the town). For such articles permission is generally given to land at convenient parts of the port, quays, or bay.

But as regards exports (on which the duty is only 1 per cent.), from time immemorial this rule has been relaxed, and the "adet" or custom has always been to give facilities for the embarkation of all bulky goods *en bloc* (such as valonea, minerals, raisins, liquorice root, figs, grain, &c.) at various places according to the convenience of the shippers. Were it otherwise the custom-house, which is often as it is inconveniently blocked from imports alone, would be far too small for the enormous and constantly increasing export trade of Smyrna, and the greatest confusion and loss would follow. It would be a very serious impediment to trade were such facilities withdrawn, and so clearly has this been recognized by the Turkish Government in bygone days that in the Firman of the Smyrna and Aidin Railway Company, issued before the quays were even contemplated, permission was granted for the construction of a special quay for the embarkation and disembarkation of merchandize carried by the railway. The Government, on the other hand, has engaged itself to place Customs officers at the aforesaid quay, "pour vérifier les marchandises transportées par la Compagnie et pour en percevoir les droits de Douane, sans que les consignataires de ces marchandises soient par la suite obligés à les faire repasser par la Douane."*

* *Vide* extract from Convention, Article V, attached to this Report.

Almost identical privileges are given to the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway Company, *vide* Inclosures 4 and 5. In the "Cahier des Charges" of both these Companies it is laid down (Article 64), that "aucun impôt d'aucune espèce ne pourra être établi sur le sol fonds ou revenu du chemin de fer pendant toute la durée de la concession."

And in spite of these very clear rights, the Société claimed the power of levying quay dues on goods embarked or disembarked at the Aïdin Railway Company's pier, a claim which was successfully resisted by force.

So anxious is the Société to obtain a footing beyond the extremities of the quays, that during my present visit to Smyrna it offered to make very large concessions to general trade on condition of being allowed to charge half quay dues on goods landed at or shipped from the railway piers, and other neighbouring establishments.

For there are other interests involved in this question.* In the vicinity of the railway piers are the Smyrna gas manufactory (a large establishment using annually 3,000 tons of coal), 3 flour mills, 11 tanneries, 2 depôts of bones and rags, 2 oil manufactories and 2 spirit manufactories, besides 2 depôts for petroleum. These establishments have all existed for some years past, and as they have not used the quay they have been exempt from payment of quay dues. Many of these establishments have been compelled by municipal regulations to take up their abode outside of the town of Smyrna, and it would indeed be hard if, after having been forcibly driven out of the town, they were compelled to pay quay taxes for quays which they neither use nor wish to use.

Outside the other extremity of the Smyrna quays, viz. in the suburbs of Karatash and Geuz-tepeh, are six establishments (*vide* inclosure) somewhat similarly situated.

The Turkish Government have fortunately seen matters in the same light as I do, and although pressure has been brought to bear by the Société, through the Smyrna Customs officials, to compel the establishments outside the extremities of the quays to carry their goods to the custom-house, and thereby make themselves liable to the payment of quay dues, yet the Superior Customs authorities at Constantinople, of whom my late colleague, Portugal Effendi, is, I believe, the Chief, issued an order to the local authorities some months ago that the rights established by custom ("adet") of all existing establishments were to be respected, and that the institutions I have named above were not to be compelled to bring their goods (for export) to the custom-house. Warning, however, was to be given to all persons proposing to start fresh establishments, that the above privilege would not be extended to them. Portugal Effendi, however, informed me that the order would probably be modified, to the extent of allowing similar establishments to the above to be started, but every discouragement would still be shown to persons wishing to start general warehouses or other establishments which might be started to avoid the payment of quay dues.

Although the above limitation is ostensibly with the object of preventing smuggling, it would seem really to be issued in the interests of the Quay Company, as the custom-house would hardly wish to give so evident a proof of its inability to prevent smuggling. The order, moreover, would hamper the legitimate trade of the future, but it is to be hoped that when the present proposed arrangements for a settlement of the quay question be carried out, the facilities offered to trade will be so great that the Société need have no fear of a fresh centre of trade springing up outside the limits of the present city, in order to avoid the quay charges.

I have reported on this question at length, in order that the matter may be clearly understood, should any conflict arise in the future on the above questions.

All that can be done in the matter at present is to obtain a distinct declaration from the Porte that it refuses to recognize the claims of the Quay Company to levy dues elsewhere than in the *port d'abri* and on the Smyrna quays, and for the future to maintain an attitude of watchfulness. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

With reference to the two conditions at the head of this Article, it will be necessary for the Porte to give an assurance to Her Majesty's Government that the new Tariff about to be prepared shall be maintained as a maximum during the whole period of the concession, and that after the expiration of the concession the

* *Vide* list of establishments in Appendix.

Porte binds itself not to increase the dues without at the same time restoring the right of free access to the custom-house.

It is a matter for consideration whether or no advantage should be taken of the recommendation made to the Porte by Parnis Effendi, that in order to give to foreign Governments a proof of its firm intention "de n'imposer des droits de quai que pour couvrir le prix des travaux accomplis, le Gouvernement Impérial déclarerait qu'à l'expiration de cette concession il ne sera plus perçu qu'une taxe minimum, strictement suffisante pour couvrir les frais d'entretien des quais et du 'port d'abri.'" Page 115, P.P.

Condition IV.—*That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed Dock the Smell which it is represented frequently prevents Foreign Vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their Cargoes alongside the Quay.*

The first of these conditions, viz., the removal of the bad smell from the docks, has, in my opinion, been effectively carried out; the port had originally only one entrance, that on the north, but by making a broad opening in the south jetty, sufficiently large for the passage of large ships, an effective outlet has been found for the accumulated drainage, and local winds actually cause a strong current to run from outlet to outlet. I have on several occasions gone round the port in the hottest weather, and I consider that the work in question has been most efficiently performed.

The second condition, that of affording foreign vessels the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay, is a most important one, and if arrangements can be made for efficiently carrying it out, it will go very far towards effecting a satisfactory settlement of all the questions at issue.

Matters appear indeed to have improved within the last year, for Mr. St. John, in his Report of the 28th November, 1880, states that during the fortnight he spent at Smyrna all the English steamers remained at anchor in the roads, whereas during my recent stay of two months all the English ships that have been here, with the exception of those belonging to Bell's Asia Minor Company, have made use of the port, and I have seen several English steamers moored most comfortably, both alongside the east quay, and also alongside the custom-house.

For the vessels thus moored no greater facilities could be asked, but, unfortunately, there is not sufficient space for all, and a certain number have to be laid stern on quay. This position, however, is preferred by all the mail-steamers, as they lose less time in taking up and leaving their berths, and they gain time also by discharging and taking in cargo simultaneously on both sides of the ship, by means of the large flat lighters provided by the Société.

But here we have a great inequality of conditions; the vessels lying alongside the custom-house discharge their goods without any cost other than the quay dues, and similarly vessels lying alongside the quay take in their cargoes on the same terms, whilst for vessels lying stern on quay the merchants have to pay not only the quay dues, but also the cost of lighterage. Here again another inequality exists between the ships of those companies who have passed contracts with the Société, who land their goods at a fixed rate of 5 fr. per ton, including quay dues, and the ships of the English companies who pay full quay dues plus lighterage. The last item may be reckoned at 1 fr. per ton for disembarking and ½ fr. per ton for embarking goods. The contracts passed between the Société and the Companies only refer to the disembarkation of goods. For embarkation they are under the same conditions as the English ships. It is evidently a great *desideratum* to obtain equal treatment for all.

In dealing with this question we must take another retrospective view, and once more quote Fuad Pasha's note of the 1st April, 1868, the Magna Charta of the Smyrna merchants:

"Je dirai seulement qu'en retour de ces facilités il ne sera imposé au commerce Anglais aucune taxe qui dépasse les frais que lui occasionnent l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises dans les conditions où ils sont actuellement opérés à Smyrne."

And now for another potent authority. Khalil Pasha sent to Sir Henry Elliot, on the 2nd February, 1873, a very ably-written Memorandum on the Smyrna quays, in which it is distinctly laid down that "*le Tarif de quai remplace les frais d'embarque-* Page 135, P.P.

ment et de débarquement qui pesaient sur tout commerçant indépendamment des droits de Douane."

Page 136, P.P. Let us again extract from Messrs. Dussaud's Memorandum of the 21st August, 1876:

"Aujourd'hui MM. Dussaud ont créé à Smyrne, et attenant au quai, un véritable port plus grand que celui de Marseille: 300,000 mètres de superficie contre 675 mètres de longueur de quai, dans lequel le commerce trouve toutes les facilités, toutes les sécurités, toutes les économies, et toutes les garanties désirables pour ces opérations. Plus de 500 navires, ainsi que les grands navires de toutes les Compagnies de Bateaux à Vapeur trouvent dans le nouveau port un *abri sûr et une profondeur et un espace suffisants pour amarrer à quai, embarquer et débarquer leurs colis directement du quai au navire, et du navire au quai, sans intermédiaires, sans aucune perte de temps, sans aucun retard, par tous les temps, et sans crainte de subir des avaries ou des déplis d'aucune sorte.*"

These three quotations sufficiently prove that it was clearly laid down that the "droits de quai" were considered as a *substitute* for the original expenses of embarking and disembarking goods. The Délégué of the Sublime Porte, Parnis Effendi, in his Report to the Government, states:—

Page 115, P.P. "Le Soussigné a relevé que le commerce de Smyrne tout entier demande que la Société des Quais fournisse aux navires, qui n'abordent pas les quais par le flanc, le matériel nécessaire pour l'embarquement et le débarquement des marchandises le long du bord. Cette demande est incontestablement justifiée, et la Société doit y pourvoir; mais il est bien entendu que c'est au commerçant qu'il appartient de transporter ses marchandises sur les quais, ou sur les chattes ou pontons flottants, pour être embarquées sur le navire par les soins de l'équipage, c'est-à-dire, que la Société doit fournir le matériel et non le personnel."

Page 128, P.P. Again the Commission, appointed by the Sublime Porte, reported on the 4th June, 1881:—

"Qu'il est évidemment incontestable que la demande faite par le commerce local pour que la Compagnie accorde gratuitement le matériel nécessaire pour le débarquement et l'embarquement des marchandises aux navires n'accostant pas les quais par le flanc est légitime, et qu'il y a par conséquent lieu d'y faire droit."

In the same Report it is stated that M. Caporal, the representative of the Société, declared that, although the Society was not obliged to do so according to its Conventions with the Government, nevertheless "elle consentirait, si les mesures proposées par la Commission dans le but de mettre fin au litige étaient adoptées, à mettre gratuitement à la disposition du commerce le matériel voulu, en prenant à sa charge les frais d'entretien," and I may add that M. Guilfray has personally declared to me the consent of the Company to provide the *matériel nécessaire*, although he gave me clearly to understand that in that term he does not include the *remorquage*, *i.e.*, the steam power necessary to convey the lighters from the ship to custom-house or quay, and *vice versâ*.

There would, however, appear to be no question but that the merchants are entitled to free *remorquage* if Fuad Pasha's and Khalil Pasha's pledges are to be carried out, and it is to be hoped that the Porte will view the matter in this light, and prevail on the Société to provide gratuitously all that is requisite. If that be impracticable the Porte might find some compensation to give to the Society as an inducement to supply the *remorquage*.

Many merchants find it convenient to load ships from the quay—outside the *port d'abri*—at points near their magazines or sources of supply, the same as they used to do before the quay was originally constructed. It should be clearly understood in this case also, that if from insufficient depth of water the vessel cannot lie alongside the quay, the Society should furnish gratuitously the pontoons necessary for making a communication with the shore.

It should also be laid down as a condition, that in case of the Société being unable to furnish space for vessels to be moored alongside the custom-house or alongside the quay, and that from insufficiency of material or other causes the Société be unable to furnish pontoons or lighters for the embarkation and disembarkation of goods, the merchants shall have the right to use their own lighters, and shall, under those circumstances, only be called on to pay half the full quay dues, by way of compensating them for the extra expense to which they will be put.

Although it is not probable that the above eventuality will often occur under the arrangement which I shall propose in treating of Condition V, yet it might occasionally happen from extraordinary pressure of business, and it is desirable, in order to prevent future misunderstanding, that some clear rule be laid down on the subject.

Condition V.—*That the Société undertakes the Repavement of the Streets, and the amelioration of the existing System of Sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.*

The question of the repavement of the streets and of the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage are amongst the improvements offered by the Société, which have been already noted in pp. 5 and 6 of the present Report. I propose considering the whole of these conditions *seriatim*. The Society claims, however, that whatever may be its moral responsibilities, it is only legally bound by the Articles of the second "Acte Additionnel," which may naturally be supposed to embody the results of all preliminary negotiations, and to which I shall have frequently to refer in dealing with this portion of the subject.

The improvements offered were ten in number:—

1. The completion of the quay before the free space in front of the old custom-house, and the filling-in of the land reclaimed. These works have been most effectively performed.

2. The transfer of the Customs establishment into the new port, and the consequent erection there of a new custom-house at the expense of the Society. This condition also has been fulfilled.

3. The construction, at the expense of the Society, near the site of the old Douane, of a terminal station common to the two Smyrna Railway Companies (Aïdin and Cassaba).

This has not yet been done, as the Railway Companies and the Société have not yet come to terms on the subject. I may mention, however, that the Commission of British merchants in their Report of the 27th February, 1877, seemed very doubtful as to whether the construction of such a terminus would prove of any great convenience to commerce, as many of the principal articles of export, such as valonea, cotton, figs, and raisins, require certain preparatory operations to be performed before they can be embarked; and direct communication between the producing districts and the steamer is therefore not so necessary as it might otherwise be. They feared, also, that the concentration of goods on the quays caused by the simultaneous arrival of merchandize from Aïdin, from Cassaba, and from abroad, would cause great confusion and impediments to commerce. Page 3, P.P.

Article 2 of the second "Acte Additionnel" refers to this question, but in somewhat vague terms. It states that "le jour où les deux Chemins de Fer d'Aïdin et de Cassaba s'accorderaient:" the Society engages itself to construct on the site of the ancient Douane, at its cost and risks, a large terminus for their use. The Société, in agreement with the Railway Companies, was to settle the conditions and charges for the use of the Society's tramway (which runs from the present terminus of the Aïdin Railway down to the new custom-house).

On this subject I would remark—

(*a.*) The correct translation from the original Turkish gives "le jour où les Chemins de Fer *se raccorderaient*," *i.e.*, when they should join on to each other, instead of when they come to terms with each other. However, although the two lines cross each other at a level crossing near their respective termini, yet the Companies have not joined rails, nor have they come to an understanding on the subject of a common terminus.

(*b.*) It is not stated very clearly whether the Société is to give to the Railway Companies gratuitous use of the terminus, or whether it may make any charge for the same. As, however, it is left to make its own terms with the railways for the use of its tramway, it will doubtless be quite capable of looking after its own interests.

(*c.*) The obligation of the Company to construct on the site of the old custom-house, at its own cost and risks, a terminal station, appears hardly consistent with Article 7 of the same "Acte Additionnel," which lays down that the Imperial Government concedes to the Société the absolute propriety of all the ground covered by the old custom-house, along with its buildings and belongings.

(*d.*) As a matter of fact the old custom-house, and the ground on which it stands, were sold some time since by the Society to private individuals for the sum of £ T. 20,000.

(*e.*) But the Société has left vacant in front of the old custom-house a more

convenient site, covering, it is stated, a greater area than the old custom-house. M. Guiffray has informed me that this site is destined for the terminal station as soon as the parties interested can come to terms.

It is probable that when the various questions which have been touched on in this Report be finally settled, the Society and the Companies will be better able to come to an arrangement, and I think the question need not affect the proposals contained in the present Report; it being always understood, however, that the Porte should insist that the space in front of the old Douane, now reserved as the site for a terminus, should under no circumstances be alienated for any other purpose.

It is doubtful, however, whether the site allotted gives sufficient space for the operations of two great Railway Companies, and it has, I believe, been proposed by M. Guiffray to construct a tunnel from the present terminus of the Cassaba Railway, under the Turkish quarter of the town, to emerge at the present Government barracks, which might perhaps be replaced by a terminal station. The concession of the Cassaba Company has, however, only nine years more to run, and it is not likely that the Company will undertake any large work of the kind unless it can obtain an extension of its concession.

The Aïdin Railway Company has already connected its system with the Quay tramway, and goods trains run every night from the pier terminus to the custom-house, near which the Company rents provisional store-rooms. During the two years that this arrangement has worked the Railway Company has carried along the tramway a mean average per annum of 43,800 tons of merchandize.

By Article 3 of the second "Acte Additionnel," trains are only allowed to run between midnight and 8 A.M., and as this involves the expense of maintaining a double establishment on the part of the Railway Company, the latter is unwilling to enter into any permanent engagement until it can procure an abrogation of this rule. The proposal, however, to run trains in the day-time, has encountered great opposition on the part of the house proprietors along the quay, and as it is a purely local question, I have done nothing in the matter beyond ascertaining the facts of the case.

4. "Construction d'entrepôts, de magasins, et de hangars pour le commerce sur les jetées sud et nord du port d'abri, et la Société portera à 30 mètres la largeur de ces jetées." And

5. "Constitution des offices de Santé, des Phares, du Capitaine de Port, et des Passeports sur le port d'abri."

In the "Acte Additionnel," these conditions were considerably modified. The Société bound itself to construct on the north jetty all the different offices for posts and telegraphs, lighthouse administration, harbour-master, and passports, and a small fish-market, the whole according to a plan annexed to the "Acte." These works have been executed, and occupy all the available space along the whole length of the north jetty, but as there was no room there for the fish-market, the latter was built on another site.

The south jetty had to be widened to 50 metres, instead of 30 as promised, and, I presume, by way of compensating for the additional expenditure incurred on this and other accounts the Society was given permission ("aura la faculté") to erect magazines and sheds for the use of commerce, instead of being compelled to do so. Certain sheds and magazines have been constructed in the vicinity of the custom-house, from which the Society receive a handsome rental.

The new custom-house mentioned in Article 2, with its courts and façade, covers the whole of the south jetty, with the exception of a broad road running along its whole length on the north side, so that there is no room for magazines and sheds on it apart from the custom-house.

This custom-house was built by the Society in conformity with the plan prepared by the authorities, but, unfortunately, the plan was very defective, and loud and bitter are the complaints made by the merchants against the present arrangements. A very small and insufficient portion is covered, and great loss and damage to merchandize occurs in consequence. The flooring of the open quay in front is sunk in places, so that during and after rain the water collects, and bales of cotton and other merchandize may be seen lying there soaked at top and sodden at bottom. There has been, perhaps, no room to stow them away inside, and they cannot be removed until the necessary formalities of the custom-house and Quay Company's offices have been gone through.

Not only this, but the want of space in the covered portion of the custom-

house makes it necessary for one merchant's goods to be piled up on the top of another, causing great confusion and delay in removal.

The custom-house is, I understand, legally responsible for damage done to goods in its charge which may be due to want of cover or insufficient accommodation, and it would therefore be in the best interests of the Government itself to provide a proper roof for the open courtyards of the custom-house and the open space in front of it. This course has been strongly urged on the Turkish Government by the head of the Customs Department here, and my colleague, Portugal Effendi, who has witnessed the present defective arrangements, told me before he left that he would strongly recommend to the Porte that it should undertake to provide a proper roofing for the whole custom-house. It would be an expensive matter, costing perhaps £T. 12,000 or more, although this does not seem a very heavy charge when it is borne in mind that the Smyrna Customs receipts amount to an average of nearly 200,000*l.* per annum. The present Société des Quais would be willing to construct the work if the Government would grant it an equivalent prolongation of the period of concession.

It is proposed to throw into, so as to form an integral part of the custom-house premises, the present broad road which runs along the south side of the custom-house jetty. If this were done there would be sufficient space for all steamers that wanted it, to be moored stern on quay opposite the custom-house; and if, as is proposed, floating jetties, composed of pontoons, be interpolated between the steamers connecting them with the quay, very great facilities would be thus given to commerce.

6. "Achèvement par expropriation à la charge de la Société de la nouvelle rue parallèle au quai, et pavage de cette rue, et du quai et des rues transversales."

Further details connected with this scheme are inserted in the "Acte Additionnel," and have been quoted earlier in this Report (p. 192). The work is not yet completed, although the greater part of the quay has been paved, but it must be recollected that the Society had five years given to it in which to finish the work. For the last several months operations in the Rue Parallèle have been at a stand-still, as the Society has declared (not unreasonably) that as long as existing questions remain unsettled, and the vital question of the 100 free pikes continues open, so long will they abstain from throwing away their money in improvements for the benefit of other people. M. Guiffray has assured me that, as soon as a settlement is come to, he will push on the works that have been stopped.

7. "Amélioration du système des égouts." This obligation to improve the system of drains has been interpreted in a variety of ways, but I am of opinion that it can only fairly be taken in the sense of the paragraph in the second "Acte," which lays down that the Society should construct and enlarge the public sewers which join on to those already constructed by the Society, in conformity with the plan annexed to the Acte, and "should, if necessary, prolong the sewers already constructed by 500 pikes."

These works are in the same category as the improvements noted in the last paragraph, and will doubtless be proceeded with as soon as pending questions are settled.

8. "Endiguement du Mélès." Examined by the light of the second "Acte" this would appear to involve the construction of all the works necessary to prevent any inundations in the town of Smyrna which might be caused by the overflow of the River Mélès. Five years were allowed to the Society by its convention with the Porte in which to complete the work, and M. Guiffray has told me that he estimates the probable expenditure at £T. 5,000. The works have not yet been begun, and I do not think the town of Smyrna would lose much if the works contemplated were never carried out.

I consider that if the £T. 5,000, which it is admitted these works will cost, were spent instead on paving some of the principal Smyrna streets, the money would be better laid out, or, indeed, if the Porte object to the large expenditure proposed for the custom-house, the Society might be absolved from its obligation to carry out the Mélès scheme, and the sum thus unlocked might be considered as a contribution by the people of Smyrna towards the roofing of the custom-house.

9. This Article absolves the Turkish Government from a debt towards the Society computed at £T. 12,000.

10. This Article is the one wherein the promise is made to lower the Tariff by 30 per cent. The matter has been discussed at length elsewhere.

It may here be observed that, in addition to the afore-mentioned works, the

execution of which were promised by the Messrs. Dussaud to Sir Henry Elliot, they were bound under the second "Acte," to extend the south-west jetty of the port for a distance of 100 metres towards the south, in order to give protection to vessels loading or discharging on the south side of the new custom-house, and in front of the projected railway terminus. This work was carried out, but the Société, of its own accord, and at considerable expense, extended this jetty for 300 metres instead of 100, as originally proposed, to the great improvement of the port and the benefit of commerce. (See Map.)

RECAPITULATION.

It appears from the considerations which precede that in 1876, the Société des Quais, *i.e.*, Messrs. Dussaud and Co., through their agent, M. Roux de Lusignan, offered to Sir Henry Elliot certain advantages and facilities to commerce, on condition that Her Majesty's Government would agree to the surrender of the right of free access to the custom-house, which had been hitherto enjoyed by the merchants of Smyrna. After taking the opinion of the said merchants, Her Majesty's Government, in answer to an application on the subject from the Porte, agreed in 1877 to withdraw opposition to the closing of the free space provided five specified conditions were carried out.

A new Convention was subsequently made between the Porte and the Société in 1878, under the terms of which the old custom-house and the free space in front were closed, and the new custom-house opened. This was effected on the 1st May, 1880, from which date all merchandize embarked or disembarked at the quays has had to pay dues according to an arbitrary Tariff fixed by the Porte. Her Majesty's Ambassador protested against the closing of the free space, as the five conditions on which Her Majesty's Government had conditionally consented to the above change had not been complied with. The British merchants under orders from Her Majesty's Ambassador paid their dues under protest, and from that day to this pending the final settlement of the question quay dues on British merchandize have practically been all paid under protest.

It has been shown that the Porte has made two incompatible engagements, one with Her Majesty's Ambassador and the other with the French Society, and the principal object of this Report has been to show to what extent the five conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government have been complied with, and to indicate how the Porte may yet be able to keep its engagements with both contracting parties, and thus, it is hoped, put an end to the disputes and bad feeling which have existed at Smyrna on the subject of the quays, ever since they were first projected in 1867, a state of things which has at different times occupied the serious attention of several of Her Majesty's Ambassadors.

Condition I.—*That the existing Tariff of Quay Dues be reduced in such a manner as shall satisfy all Parties concerned.*

It has been shown that the Tariff introduced on the 1st May, 1880, viz., that which is appended to the second "Acte Additionnel," does not satisfy the above condition.

It is shown, however, that the condition may be satisfied by the following practical measures:—

1. The abandonment by the Porte of the 12 per cent. share of the gross receipts of the Société; this sum to be applied (in the manner suggested in this Report, page 196) towards the reduction of the present Tariff. The Commission appointed by the Porte at Constantinople to examine and report on the Smyrna Quay question has already recommended that this sacrifice be made.

2. The liberal interpretation in future of the existing rules as regards transit duties, as laid down in page 198 of this Report, and the formation by the Société des Quais of floating depôts for goods in transit. A distinct declaration should be obtained that goods transhipped between two vessels, both of them outside the port, should pay no quay or harbour dues.

3. The maintenance of the present reduced Tariff on certain articles specified in the joint Report of Portugal Effendi and Major Trotter.

N.B.—M. Guiffray, the Managing Director of the Société, has given his unconditional adhesion to (2), and adhesion to (3) conditional on the settlement of all matters in dispute.

4. The abolition of the existing contracts between the Société and various steam navigation companies. Such strong reasons against these contracts have been shown in the joint Report, that I cannot think there will be any difficulty in bringing them to an end. M. Guiffray has stated that the Société makes no profit out of them, and will be glad to be relieved of them. Notice by either party to cancel the existing arrangement must be given before the 31st March, 1882, or the contracts will last for another year.

5. The preparation and publication of a thoroughly complete and detailed Tariff, as proposed in page 23.

6. An extension of the proviso in Article V of the second "Acte Additionnel," so as to provide for the settlement by arbitration of disputes that may arise between merchants and the Society. M. Guiffray has expressed his willingness to agree to some such arrangement.

Condition II.—*That the Tariff so reduced be maintained during the whole period of the Concession.*

Condition III.—*That the Sublime Porte engage itself not to increase the Dues after the expiration of the Concession without restoring the present access to the Custom-house free of Quay Dues.*

For the fulfilment of these two conditions, it seems to be necessary that Her Majesty's Government should obtain from the Porte a solemn declaration:—

1. That the new Tariff now to be prepared shall be maintained as a maximum during the whole period of the concession.

2. That no dues can be levied elsewhere than in the *port d'abri*, and on goods actually passing over the Smyrna quays; or, in other words, that no quay dues can be levied unless the quay or *port d'abri* be made use of.

3. That the Sublime Porte engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the term of the concession without restoring the right of access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

Condition IV.—*That the Company undertake to remove from the newly-constructed Dock the Smell which it is represented frequently prevents foreign vessels from resorting to it, and to afford them the facilities required for discharging their Cargoes alongside the Quay.*

It has been shown that the first of these conditions has been efficiently performed.

With regard to the second, it has been proved that the merchants have an incontestable right to consider the "droits de quai" as a substitute for the old expenses of embarking and disembarking merchandize, and that in case facilities cannot be given them for lying broadside on quay, the Society ought to furnish gratuitously the material necessary for landing or discharging goods.

On its part the Société, whilst claiming that its Convention with the Government does not oblige it to do so, is nevertheless willing to provide the *matériel* gratis. M. Guiffray does not include under this term the *remorquage* or steam power necessary to convey the lighters from the ship to custom-house or quay, and *vice versâ*. An examination, however, of Messrs. Dussaud's offers to Sir Henry Elliot, taken along with the pledges given by Fuad Pasha and Khalil Pasha, clearly shows that the merchants are entitled to free *remorquage*, and the Porte, if it be found necessary, might give the Society some adequate compensation for giving free *remorquage*, so that the merchant should have no expenses other than the quay dues.

Should merchants wish to embark goods opposite their warehouses, and there be insufficient depth of water for ships to go alongside, it is equally understood that the Society should furnish the material necessary to effect a communication with the shore.

It should also be laid down as a rule that, in case of the Society being unable to furnish space for vessels to be moored in direct communication with quay or custom-house, and that from insufficiency of material or other causes the Société be unable to furnish pontoons or lighters for landing or embarking goods, the merchant shall, to save delay and consequent loss, have the right to use his own lighters, and shall, under those circumstances, only pay half quay dues.

Condition V.—*That the Société undertake the Repavement of the Streets, and the amelioration of the existing System of Sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it has offered to accomplish.*

It has been shown, after a careful examination of Messrs. Dussaud's offer, that most of the promised improvements have been carried out.

Certain works, such as the paving of the quay and the Rue Parallèle and the connecting streets, as well as the construction and enlargement of the sewers, have been delayed pending a settlement of the existing questions. M. Guiffray tells me that as soon as a satisfactory solution is arrived at these works will be vigorously proceeded with, in accordance with the plan accompanying the second "Acte Additionnel;" and he hopes that they may yet be finished within the five years' limit of time which was given for their completion.

With reference to the projected Terminal Railway Station, it has been pointed out that the settlement of the questions specially treated of in this Report will probably facilitate an arrangement being arrived at between the Society and the Railway Companies. Meanwhile, care should be taken that the site destined for the common terminus should be reserved for the object in view.

The promised works for the embankment of the River Mélès, to prevent inundations, for which also a period of five years was allowed, have not yet been taken in hand. M. Guiffray estimates the expense of these works at £T. 5,000, and I am of opinion that this sum of money might be more profitably employed in paving some of the streets of the town of Smyrna.

It has been shown that the promise made by the Society to Sir H. Elliot to construct depôts, magazines, and sheds for commerce on the north and south jetties cannot be carried out, as the custom-house and different port offices already cover all the available space; but in lieu of this obligation the Society has, in agreement with the Government, widened the south jetty to 50 metres instead of 30 metres as promised, and has also prolonged the south-east jetty for a length of 300 metres, a work of great utility to commerce, which was not included in the promises made to Sir Henry Elliot.

It would not seem, therefore, that the Society is bound to do more in that respect; but it is very certain that there exists a very great and urgent necessity for the covering in of the court-yards and façade of the custom-house, to prevent damage to merchandize from rain and exposure.

My late colleague, Portugal Effendi, was fully aware of this necessity, and promised to recommend to the Imperial Government that it should be carried out at an early date.

It appears then, with reference to Condition V, that all that remains for the Société to do, in addition to the embankment of the Mélès, is to complete the pavage of the Quay and of the Rue Parallèle and of the connecting streets, as well as the construction and enlargement of the sewers, in accordance with the plan attached to the second "Acte Additionnel."

Conclusion.

It appears then that the five conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government in Mr. Jocelyn's Note to the Porte of 18th April, 1877, may be fulfilled by carrying out the following arrangements:—

(1.) The Sublime Porte to contribute its 12 per cent. share of the gross revenue of the Quay Company, to be applied towards reducing the present Tariff in the manner laid down in pages 196 to 198 of this Report.

(2.) The preparation by a competent and impartial Commission of a new and thoroughly complete and detailed Tariff, which shall show the 12 per cent. reduction as above, and also the *ulterior reductions* alluded to in the joint Report on the Tariff. New rules should be laid down with regard to transit duties (*vide* page 198), in accordance with M. Guiffray's declaration. It should also be distinctly declared that goods transhipped between two vessels, both of them being outside the port and not using the quay, shall pay no quay or harbour dues. Maximum rates should be fixed for the use of the floating depôts for merchandize in transit, which it is proposed by M. Guiffray to prepare.

The Tariff, when so prepared, to be published and circulated to the public.

(3.) The port to make some arrangement with the Société, by which the latter shall furnish gratuitously and maintain in serviceable order the material necessary for the embarkation and disembarkation of goods, when the vessels cannot be moored alongside the custom-house or quay. This *matériel* to include, when necessary, the towing of lighters and barges from ships to custom-house or quay, and *vice versâ*. Equal facilities to be supplied, if necessary, to persons wishing to load their vessels from any particular part of the quay.

In case of the Société being unable, within reasonable delay, to furnish space for vessels to be moored in direct communication with custom-house or quay, and from insufficiency of *matériel* or other causes the Société be unable to furnish pontoons or lighters for landing or loading goods, the merchant shall, after the expiry of the said period, have the right to employ his own lighters, and shall, under those circumstances, only pay half quay dues.

(4.) The contracts between the Société and the Steam Navigation Companies to be broken off. Unless notice be given by the Société before the 31st March, 1882, the contracts will last for another year.

(5.) An extension of the proviso in Article V of the second "Acte Additionnel," so as to provide for the settlement, by arbitration, of disputes that may arise between the Société and private individuals.

(6.) A solemn declaration to be obtained from the Porte.

(A.) That the new Tariff now to be prepared shall be maintained as a maximum during the whole period of the concession.

(B.) That no dues can be levied elsewhere than in the *port d'abri*, or on goods passing over the Smyrna quays, or, in other words, that no quay dues can be levied unless the quay or *port d'abri* be made use of.

(C.) That the Sublime Porte shall not increase the dues, after the expiration of the concession, without restoring right of free access to the custom-house free of charge.

(7.) The completion of the paving of the Quay and of the Rue Parallèle and the connecting streets, as well as the construction and enlargement of the sewers according to the plan annexed to the second "Acte Additionnel." These works should be energetically proceeded with as soon as a settlement is come to on existing questions.

(8.) The site destined for the common terminus of the two railways to be reserved specially for that purpose, and no encroachments to be made upon it.

(9.) The works for the embankment of the River Mélès to be carried out, or in lieu thereof, some other work of greater public utility.

I am of opinion that if the above be carried out in a liberal spirit, that not only will the original promises of Messrs. Dussaud have been fulfilled, but also the five conditions on which Her Majesty's Government agreed to the suppression of the 100 free pikes; but viewing the urgent necessity that is universally admitted to exist, for the increase of space and for the efficient and speedy roofing in of the courts and façades of the custom-house, I think that Her Majesty's Government cannot too strongly urge on the Porte the desirability of carrying out this very necessary reform.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Smyrna, January 18, 1882.

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Extracts from Firman and Conventions relative to the Railway from Smyrna to Guzel-Hissar, Aïdin.

ARTICLE 5. La Compagnie pourra élever aux terminus de la ligne, à Smyrne et à Guzel-Hissar, Aïdin, ainsi qu'aux différentes stations, les constructions qui seront indispensables pour le service du chemin de fer, et pour faciliter le trafic de la ligne; la Compagnie pourra aussi faire construire à Smyrne, au terminus de la ligne, un quai spécial avec ses dépendances, pour y charger et décharger exclusivement les marchandises qui doivent traverser la ligne, et ce dans les limites nécessaires au service de la même. Le Gouvernement de son côté placera des préposés de Douane à la station ou au quai du chemin de fer à Smyrne, et partout ailleurs où il le jugera nécessaire, pour vérifier les marchandises transportées par la Compagnie et pour en percevoir les droits de douane, sans que les consignataires de ces marchandises soient par la suite obligés à les faire repasser par la Douane. La Compagnie aussi s'engage de son côte à établir à ses frais des bureaux spéciaux destinés à ces préposés, à réserver des bureaux ou chambres séparées pour les Commissaires ou autres employés nécessaires du Gouvernement dans les stations les plus importantes de la ligne.

Convention du 1er Octobre, 1866.

Art. 6. Enfin, à partir de la présente Convention, la Compagnie sera soumise aux clauses et conditions du Cahier des Charges Général imposées à la Compagnie de Cassaba, excepté à celles relatives à la durée et au rachat de la concession, qui restent déterminées par les Articles XVIII et XIX de la Convention du Septembre, 1856.

Sublime Porte, le 1er Octobre, 1866.

Inclosure 4 in No. 94.

Railway from Smyrna to Aïdin.

Cahier des Charges (Clauses diverses).

ARTICLE 63. Le Gouvernement placera des agents aux stations frontières où il le jugera nécessaire, pour vérifier les marchandises transportées par la Compagnie et pour en percevoir les droits, suivant les Règlements et Tarifs de la Douane, de manière que les propriétaires en consignations ne soient pas par la suite obligés de les faire repasser par les Douanes.

Art. 64. Aucun impôt d'aucune espèce ne pourra être établi sur le sol, fonds ou revenu du chemin de fer pendant toute la durée de la concession.

La Compagnie sera, d'ailleurs, exempte de tous droits de timbre ou autres quelconques pour les actes relatifs à sa concession et à son organisation.

Art. 70. La Compagnie aura la faculté, moyennant l'autorisation spéciale du Gouvernement et sous l'observation des lois et règlements du pays:—

1. D'acquérir des terres et de les exploiter pour plantations, cultures, constructions de bâtiments, &c.

2. D'établir, aux conditions que le Gouvernement déterminera, des routes de terre ou autres, chemins de service de fer ou de bois, canaux, docks, ports, &c., qu'elle exploitera pour la correspondance des stations du chemin de fer avec les localités voisines.

3. D'établir ou d'exploiter des entreprises de transport sur les fleuves et rivières navigables et sur mer, ou de traiter avec les entreprises du même genre déjà existantes ou qui pourront être créées.

4. D'entreprendre des exploitations de mines, forêts, carrières, et d'autres industries semblables.

Inclosure 5 in No. 94.

Railway from Smyrna to Cassaba.

Cahier des Charges.

ARTICLE 63. Le Gouvernement placera des agents aux stations frontières où il le jugera nécessaire pour vérifier les marchandises transportées par la Compagnie et pour en percevoir les droits suivant les Règlements et Tarifs de la Douane, de manière que les propriétaires en consignation ne soient pas par la suite obligés de les faire repasser par les Douanes.

Art. 64. Aucun impôt d'aucune espèce ne pourra être établi sur le sol, fonds ou revenu du chemin de fer pendant toute la durée de la concession.

Art. 70. La Compagnie pourra établir aux conditions que le Gouvernement déterminera des routes de terre ou autres chemins de service de fer ou de bois, canaux, docks, ports, &c., qu'elle exploitera pour la correspondance des stations du chemin de fer avec les localités voisines.

Inclosure 6 in No. 94

ÉTABLISSEMENTS situés dans la zone directe de l'action de la Douane de Smyrne et qui s'affranchissent des Droits de Quai.

Côté du Golfe de Bournabat.

1*a*. Échelle du Railway de Smyrne à Cassaba.
1. Idem. Idem, à Aïdin.
2. Usine à Gaz.
3. Moulins à farine—M. Pittaco.
4. Idem—M. Ipsa.
5. Moulin à farine. Fabrique de pâtes et dépôt de pétroles—M. Patuna.
6. Tannerie—M. Manoli.
7. Idem—M. Miste.
8. Idem—M. Bindji Yorghi.
9. Idem—M. Mietro Yani.
10. Idem—M. Sotiri.
11. Idem—M. Nilli.
12. Idem—M. Athanassi.
13. Tannerie et échelle—M. Vasili.
14. Tannerie—M. Hadjico.
15. Idem—M. Paléologo.
16. Idem—M. Marco Vlachopoulo.
17. Dépôts d'os et chiffons de l'Orphelinat Ottoman loué à Yanco Machéoulay.
18. Dépôts d'os et chiffons et pétroles—M. Balladur
19. Fabrique d'huiles et couleurs—M. Zedé.
20. Fabrique d'huiles et farine et gins—M. Brullé.
21. Fabrique de spiritueux—M. Cimulini.
22. Idem—M. Crico.

Remarque sur l'Établissement de Patuna:
Une partie est louée à Mordoch pour chiffons et os.
Une autre est louée à Caniva pour charbon de terre.
Une autre est louée à Charles pour chiffons et os.

Côté de Karatash et Geuz-Tepeh.

Tanneries—M. Costi.
Fabrique de colle—M. Costi.
Moulin—M. [illegible].
Fabrique de sardines—M. James Hodshinson.
Vidanges—M. A. Pasquale.
Tanneries—M. P. Gaddici.

No. 95.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 18. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1882.

YOUR Lordship is already aware that in November last I instructed Major Trotter to proceed to Smyrna to make, in conjunction with Portugal Effendi, the Delegate of the Sublime Porte, a careful comparison between the Tariff now in force and the old Tariff in use prior to the closing of the free space in front of the Smyrna Custom-house in May 1880, with the view of elucidating those disputed matters of account without whose verification it was impossible to form a correct idea of the initial elements of the controversy which has arisen between the British mercantile community and the French Quay Company of that city.

Major Trotter was also requested, as soon as he had mastered the figures in dispute, to prepare a separate Report on the whole question, my object being to ascertain whether it would be practicable to come to an arrangement of this long-pending difficulty on the basis of Mr. Jocelyn's note to the Porte of the 18th April, 1877, which laid down the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government were willing to consent to the retrocession of the free space in front of the custom-house.

I have already submitted to your Lordship both the joint Report and also Major Trotter's separate Report; and I now beg to inclose copy of a supplementary despatch by Major Trotter, giving an account of a meeting recently held at the British Consulate, with a view to an interchange of ideas between that gentleman and the British merchants at Smyrna.

The five conditions originally laid down by Her Majesty's Government were as follows:—

1. That the then existing Tariff of quay dues should be reduced in such a manner as to satisfy all parties concerned.

2. That the Tariff so reduced should be maintained during the whole period of the concession.

3. That the Sublime Porte should engage itself not to increase the dues after the expiration of the concession, without restoring access to the custom-house free of quay dues.

4. That the Company should undertake to remove from the newly-constructed

dock the smell which, it was represented, frequently prevented foreign vessels from resorting to it, and should afford them the facilities required for discharging their cargoes alongside the quay.

5. That the Company should undertake the repavement of the streets and the amelioration of the existing system of sewerage, as well as all the other improvements which it had offered to accomplish.

Major Trotter's Report deals separately and at considerable length with each of these five conditions, and shows to what extent they have been already carried out, and what yet remains to be done.

The first and perhaps the most important of these conditions appears somewhat vague, but Major Trotter has shown that a reduction of 30 per cent. on the old Tariff would meet the requirements of the case. The result of the joint inquiry proves that the new Tariff actually shows a reduction on the old of 12·44 per cent., according to Major Trotter's calculations, and of 13·55 per cent. according to those of his Turkish colleague. But taking into account certain ulterior reductions that have actually been made by the Société des Quais on the new legal Tariff, and certain other reductions which are consequent on an amended interpretation of the rules regarding transit dues, a total reduction is arrived at of 17·88 per cent. according to the British, and 21·54 per cent. according to the Ottoman Delegate.

Now the Commission appointed by the Porte last year to consider and report on the Quay question recommended that the Sublime Porte should surrender its 12 per cent. share of the gross receipts of the Quay Company, to be applied to a reduction of the present Tariff. If this were done it would give a total reduction, according to Major Trotter $(100 - 17{\cdot}88 \times \frac{12}{100} + 17{\cdot}88 = 27{\cdot}73)$ of 27·73 per cent; or, according to Portugal Effendi $(100 - 21{\cdot}54 \times \frac{12}{100} + 21{\cdot}54 = 30{\cdot}95)$ of 30·95 per cent.

It has, however, been shown that although there is a total reduction between Tariff and Tariff of at least 12·44 per cent, yet the reductions have been very unequally applied, and while the reductions on important articles of export, such as raisins, figs, &c., have been very considerable, amounting to more than 50 per cent., yet in many cases, especially as regards imported British manufactured articles, the duties have been actually largely increased instead of diminished. It has, therefore, been proposed—and, I think, with justice—that the 12 per cent. which it is hoped to obtain from the Porte should be principally applied to the reduction of dues on those articles on which the rates are higher in the new Tariff than in the old.

With reference to the second and third conditions, it has been shown that the Société des Quais has claimed the right of levying quay dues over the whole of the Bay of Smyrna, and that it is, therefore, necessary to take precautions, not only to prevent the Tariff from being raised, but to prevent any enlargement of the area over which dues can be legally levied.

The first part only of condition 4 has been efficiently carried out. Proposals have now been made for increasing the custom-house frontage, and for provision *gratis* by the Société of the *matériel* necessary for embarking and disembarking merchandize in those cases where vessels cannot be put in direct communication with the custom-house or quay.

Condition 5 has also been thoroughly examined, and various suggestions and proposals have been made in connection therewith.

Major Trotter sums up by stating that it appears that the five conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government, in Mr. Jocelyn's note to the Porte of the 18th April, 1877, may be fulfilled by carrying out the following arrangements:—

1. The Sublime Porte to contribute its 12 per cent share of the gross revenue of the Quay Company, to be applied towards reducing the present Tariff in the manner laid down in pp. 21 to 23 of his Report.

2. The preparation, by a competent and impartial Commission, of a new and thoroughly complete and detailed Tariff, which shall show the 12 per cent. reduction as above, and also the ulterior reductions alluded to in the joint Report on the Tariff. New and liberal rules should be laid down with regard to transit duties (see M. Guilfray's Declaration, attached to Major Trotter's Report).

It should also be distinctly declared that goods transhipped between two vessels, both of them being outside the port and not using the quay, shall pay no quay or harbour dues. Maximum rates should be fixed for the use of the floating

depôts for merchandize in transit, which it is proposed by M. Guilfray to prepare.

The Tariff, when so prepared, to be published and circulated to the public.

3. The Porte to make some arrangement with the Société by which the latter shall furnish gratuitously, and maintain in serviceable order, the *matériel* necessary for the embarkation and disembarkation of goods, when the vessels cannot be moored alongside the custom-house or quay. This *matériel* to include, when necessary, the towing of lighters and barges from ships to customs or quay, and *vice-versâ*. Equal facilities to be supplied, if necessary, to persons wishing to load their vessels from any particular part of the quay.

The case of the Société being unable within reasonable delay to furnish space for vessels to be moored in direct communication with custom-house or quay, and from insufficiency of *matériel* or other causes, the Société be unable to furnish pontoons or lighters for landing or loading goods, the merchant shall, after the expiration of the said period, have the right to employ his own lighters, and shall, in those circumstances, only pay half quay dues.

4. The contracts between the Société and the Steam Navigation Companies to be broken off. Unless notice be given by the Société before the 31st March, 1882, the contracts will last for another year.

5. An extension of the proviso in Article 5 of the second Acte Additionnel, so as to provide for the settlement by arbitration of disputes that may arise between the Société and private individuals.

6. A solemn declaration to be obtained from the Porte.

(*a.*) That the new Tariff now to be prepared shall be maintained as a maximum during the whole period of the concession.

(*b.*) That no dues can be levied elsewhere than in the "port d'abri," or on goods passing over the Smyrna quays, or, in other words, that no quay dues can be levied unless the quay, or "port d'abri," be made use of.

(*c.*) That the Sublime Porte shall not increase the dues after the expiration of the concession, without restoring right of free access to the custom-house free of charge.

7. The completion of the paving of the quay and of the "rue parallèle" and the connecting streets, as well as the construction and enlargement of the sewers according to the plan annexed to the second Acte Additionnel.

These works should be energetically proceeded with as soon as a settlement is come to on existing questions.

8. The site destined for the common terminus of the two railways to be reserved especially for that purpose, and no encroachments to be made upon it.

9. The works for the embankment of the River Mélès to be carried out, or, in lieu thereof, some other work of greater public utility.

10. The increase of frontage to the custom-house, by absorption of the road running along the north side of the custom-house jetty, and the speedy roofing-in of the courts and façades of the custom-house itself.

It appears that, although neither the Government nor the Société are legally bound to roof in the courts and façades of the custom-house, yet that it is essentially necessary in the interests of commerce that this should be done.

As it would appear from Major Trotter's despatch that the foregoing proposals, if liberally interpreted and carried out, might, in the opinion of the majority of the English and American merchants, as well as of the merchants of all other nationalities, lead to a satisfactory solution of this long-pending dispute, and form a basis upon which satisfactory and final arrangements could be made, I have now to ask your Lordship to instruct me whether, in your opinion, it would be advisable that I should call on the Porte to promote their execution. There is no doubt that the demand for the retrocession of the 100 free pics might be regarded in theory both as a juster, a more advantageous, and a less complicated settlement; but in the present phase of the question their surrender could only be extracted from the Porte under the menace of very severe and stringent pressure, and, as a preliminary to this course it would be necessary to arrive at an understanding with the French Government in regard to the position of the Quay Company, who would undoubtedly receive, unless special orders to the contrary were transmitted to him from Paris, the support and countenance of the French Ambassador here in their appeals to the Porte against our demands. On the other hand, if Major Trotter's proposals should receive your Lordship's approbation, the scheme, of which they are the elements, would have to be carefully defined and elaborated by a Commission

appointed *ad hoc*, in which all the principal parties interested should be represented, and which might subsequently prepare the new Tariff as proposed in Article 2.

It appears that the Société des Quais is willing on its part to consider as permanent the reductions they have already made on the new Tariff, *i.e.*, what are termed in the joint Report the "ulterior reductions," which involve *inter alia* a correct and liberal interpretation of the rules regarding transit, which have hitherto been interpreted by the Société in a very illiberal manner. The Société is also prepared to furnish gratis the *matériel* (excluding towage) necessary for loading and discharging cargoes of vessels who, from want of space, cannot be placed broadside on the quay. They are prepared to supply free *remorquage*, and to cover the courts and façades of the custom-house, provided the Turkish Government will give them fair compensation. This could easily be effected by granting a prolongation of the concession, which has now thirty years to run.

The representative of the Société has verbally declared to Major Trotter that the Société is willing to accept all the other proposals he has made with the single exception of Article 6 (*b*). As, however, the Porte has not hitherto admitted the right claimed by the Société to levy dues where no service, direct or indirect, has been rendered, there ought not to be any serious difficulty in obtaining from the Porte the required declaration.

The concessions demanded from the Porte are as follows:—

1. The surrender of its 12 per cent. share of the gross receipts of the Société, which it is proposed to apply towards the reduction of the present Tariff.

2. That it should, if necessary, compensate the Société for the expenses the latter will be put to in providing free *remorquage*, and in roofing the courts and façades of the custom-house.

The Commission appointed by the Porte to study the question, in its Report, which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 62, Commercial, of the 16th July, 1881, has already recommended the surrender by the Government of its 12 per cent. share of the receipts, and also stated, "qu'il est évidemment incontestable que la demande faite par le commerce local pour que la Compagnie accorde gratuitement le matériel nécessaire pour le débarquement et l'embarquement des marchandises aux navires n'accostant pas les quais par le flanc est légitime, et qu'il y a, par conséquent, lieu d'y faire droit."

The necessity for the covering of the custom-house courts and façades is so self-evident, and has been so strongly recommended to the Porte by its own Customs officials, that, although it appears that we have no legal right to insist upon it, yet it seems hardly likely that so reasonable a proposition can be refused.

In conclusion, it is but fair to Major Trotter that I should call your Lordship's attention to the great patience, industry, and ability which have been displayed by that gentleman in elucidating the various points connected with this complicated affair. His task has necessitated severe and conscientious labour, as well as a considerable amount of tact in maintaining friendly relations with the various interested parties upon whose assistance and co-operation he was dependent for the information he required.

I may also be allowed to remark with satisfaction upon the favourable terms in which Major Trotter speaks of his colleague, Portugal Effendi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

Constantinople, January 31, 1882.

My Lord,

PRIOR to leaving Smyrna I arranged for a meeting with the principal British merchants in a room at the British Consulate, which was kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Consul Dennis.

After some preliminary remarks I explained "that the meeting must be considered as a private one, as I had no authority to submit formally any proposals for the decision of the Smyrna merchants; at the same time, I was anxious to ascertain their opinion on the proposals I had made to your Excellency, with regard to the settlement of the quay question; of these I had placed a copy in the hands of their Committee a few days previously. I had some weeks earlier shown a rough draft

of these propositions to the Committee of merchants who had generally expressed their approval, but had suggested some modifications, which I had accepted and had embodied in the proposals now made, for which I had anticipated unanimous approval. To my regret, however, I had learned that Mr. Whittall, one of their oldest and most respected merchants, was still an ardent advocate of the unconditional retrocession of the 100 free pics.

"I was prepared to listen to anything Mr. Whittall might have to say on the matter, but I must absolutely decline myself to enter into any controversy on the question, as my object was to consider the new proposals and not to waste time over the discussion of what I consider an impracticable solution."

Mr. Whittall in a long written speech advocated, chiefly on political grounds, the unconditional demand for the restoration of free access to the custom-house.

He was followed by Mr. Wilkin, who on behalf of the Committee of Smyrna read a statement, of which I inclose a copy.* It is a valuable document as emanating from the body which has always acted as the representatives of British interests at Smyrna in the transactions of the last few years.

A summary of my reply to this document will be found in Inclosure 3 in No. 92.

A long discussion followed on the details of my proposals, and ultimately a proposition was formally made and seconded that the meeting approved of the proposed arrangement.

I requested, however, that no vote should be taken, as Mr. Whittall's opposition would have prevented it from being passed unanimously, and I had no authority to submit the question formally for their approval or disapproval.

I gathered, however, from individual expressions of opinion, that a considerable majority of those present, including the whole of the American element, were in favour of accepting a solution of this long pending question on the basis of the proposals I had made, and I have little doubt but that if these propositions be formally and suitably laid before the merchants, they would be accepted as a basis for the settlement of the question. The proceedings closed by a vote of thanks to myself for the trouble I have taken in the matter.

I also communicated these proposals confidentially to the Managing Director of the Société des Quais in a letter, copy of which I inclose.† That gentleman stated to me verbally, shortly before my return here, that the only point which the Society would oppose was the demand that no quay dues be levied otherwise than on goods making use either of the quays or "port d'abri." I could only reply that I could not admit the right of the Society to claim quay dues when no service whatever was rendered, but that the point was one to be discussed between the Société and the Porte.

I regret that I have been unable to secure the unanimous assent of the British mercantile community to terms which are undoubtedly very advantageous to them, but there has been so much bad blood in Smyrna on this matter for years past, that absolute unanimity is, I fear, not to be hoped for, the more so as it is very generally believed that the Right Honourable W. H. Smith is about to bring the question before Parliament.

As far as I could ascertain the general opinion amongst merchants of other nationalities it is in favour of a settlement on the terms I have proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Report of Committee of British Merchants read at the Meeting at the British Consulate on the 25th January, 1882.

IN the year 1877 your then Committee was willing to entertain the proposals of Messrs. Dussaud for the retrocession of the 100 pics on the following conditions:—

Read printed Report of Committee, 1877.

The reduction of 30 per cent. on the then existing Tariff was of course intended by your Committee to be a *bond fide* reduction of 30 per cent. upon every article, beginning from A to Z.

The Société des Quais refused to entertain the suggestions of your then Committee, and, entirely independent of the commercial community of Smyrna,

* Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

† Inclosure 4 in No. 95.

carried on negotiations with the Ottoman Government at Constantinople, until, in the year 1878, they obtained an additional concession, called "Le Second Acte Additionnel," with an amended Tariff. On the strength of this Acte Additionnel, they suddenly took possession of 100 pics on the 1st May, 1880, and began to levy quay dues according to the rates of their new Tariff.

Your present Committee has since then done all in its power to maintain, or rather to regain your rights by repeated applications to Her Majesty's Government, which has hitherto always admitted and supported your just claims to free access to the custom-house.

It now appears that there is a desire in some quarters to settle this long-pending matter on the principle suggested by your Committee in 1877, and if those suggestions were now seriously entertained by the Ottoman Government and the Société des Quais, your Committee might feel bound to recommend their acceptance, provided they were put before you as a proposal for the settlement of the question on the precise and exact bases then stated by your Committee; but we are now informed that the new Tariff already shows a reduction of 12·46 per cent. on the previous one; whilst your Committee, as you are aware, always maintained that the new Tariff rates are in excess of the old Tariff. Your Committee continues to maintain the same ground, so far as regards the many staple articles of trade, but cannot be expected to estimate the average on articles which merely concern greengrocers, butchers, masons, plasterers, &c., of which they cannot possibly have any positive data, and yet it is upon these articles that some of the heaviest reductions have been made. As, however, it would be quite impossible, and, indeed, quite out of place, to go into details to-day on the figures involved, your Committee—without in any way deviating from what they consider your rights—have thought it advisable, for the sake of argument, and only for the sake of argument, to admit the supposition that there is a reduction of 12·46 per cent.

If this were so, it clearly follows that a further reduction of 17.54 per cent. would be required to make up the 30 per cent., and it is evident that this 17·54 should be applied, not in any case to articles already reduced, but, in the first instance, to the reduction of those of which the rates have been increased, and the surplus, if any, to the reduction of articles of which the rates remain hitherto unchanged.

Of course it must be understood that these observations apply to the Tables of the Société des Quais for 1878-79, on which Major Trotter and Portugal Effendi have conjointly based their estimates and formed their arguments.

Major Trotter proposes a further reduction on the present Tariff of the 12 per cent. due to the Ottoman Government by the Société des Quais, which would amount, according to the said Tables, to 333,276 piastres, and this sum, your Committee think, should be disposed of in like manner to that already stated, but your Committee maintain that the correct amount should be about 570,000 piastres, say 17·54 on the old Tariff.

Major Trotter makes up the reductions as follows:-

12·46 per cent. already existing on new Tariff.
5·54 for ulterior reductions by the Société des Quais.
12 per cent. due by the Société des Quais to the Ottoman Government.

30 per cent. in all.

The 5·54 ulterior reductions to be made by the Société des Quais appear to be principally on articles which have already been reduced, and likewise include the sums paid by merchants for goods in transit passing through the custom-house.

These transit dues Major Trotter, Portugal Effendi, and the Société des Quais persist in looking upon as a proposed reduction by the new Tariff, whereas your Committee maintain that all transit dues on goods passing through the custom-house are clearly an increase on the old Tariff.

Major Trotter evidently meeting with great difficulty to conciliate all interests, and wishing if possible to bring the matter to an amicable conclusion, has now proposed to you certain terms, and it is for you, Gentlemen, to determine whether it will be for your interest to accept them, and thus possibly obtain a speedy settlement, or whether to hold out for the 17·54 reduction already explained, or to maintain the suggestions of your Committee of 1877 for a clear reduction of 30 per cent. on each separate article, or to reject all compromise and to refuse every arrangement that does not include free access to the custom-house.

These are the points on which you will have to decide, and your Committee have fulfilled their duty in thus clearly laying the facts before you. Of course, however, any proposals made to-day cannot be considered as binding on either party as the ultimate decision can only be made when formal proposals are officially submitted to you.

Inclosure 3 in No. 95.

Summary of Major Trotter's verbal Reply to Written Statement of Committee of Merchants at the Meeting at the British Consulate on January 25, 1882.

IT must be borne in mind that the conditions for which the Turkish Government is legally liable are those laid down in Mr. Jocelyn's note to the Porte of the 18th April, 1877, and not those that were *claimed* by the British merchants.

It is not maintained that there will be a reduction of 30 per cent. According to my proposals the total actual reduction will be 27·73 per cent. A reduction on all articles from A to Z would, besides other objections, probably be strenuously objected to by merchants who deal in such important articles of export as figs, raisins, flour, &c., all of which have in the new Tariff been reduced a great deal more than 30 per cent., and would now have to be increased if this idea were carried out.

As quay dues are paid on articles which concern greengrocers, plasterers, &c., it is but fair that reductions on these articles be given due weight. I admit that the decrease on imports was very small indeed, but there have been large and real reductions on the principal articles of export.

The question of transit dues was fully discussed by Portugal Effendi and myself with Mr. Clarke, who, it is true, differed from the conclusions we had arrived at. It is a complicated question, which it is impossible to discuss at this meeting. I still maintain the view taken by Portugal Effendi and myself. The question, however, is unimportant if my general propositions be acceptable, viz., that the 12 per cent. share of the Government be applied to reduce the present Tariff. Even supposing, for the sake of argument, that the final reductions fell considerably short of the 30 per cent., the advantages obtained by other proposals would more than compensate for it. Neither the Société nor the Government are, in my opinion, bound to cover the custom-house courts, but one of my proposals was that the custom-house courts should be covered,—a point of very great importance, as every one present is aware. My colleague, Portugal Effendi, in his position as head of the Customs' Department in Constantinople, has great influence, which he has promised to use in favour of the proposition for roofing the custom-house and other matters, should my proposals be accepted as the basis of an arrangement. The 12 per cent. I regard as an available asset, but if you press for more, where is it to come from? If you obtain more it will probably be at the sacrifice of more material advantages. The arrangement I propose is, I believe, practical as a whole, and gives as much as I consider you are fairly entitled to. If you try to get more you run the chance of losing much that I now hope may be obtained for you. I wish you to consider my propositions as a whole, for if they be not acceptable as such, I consider that my two months' labour amongst you has been entirely thrown away.

Inclosure 4 in No. 95.

Major Trotter to M. Guiffray.

Cher M. Guiffray, *Smyrne, le 19 Janvier*, 1882.

JE vous envoie, selon ma promesse (confidentiellement), une copie des propositions que je viens d'envoyer à l'Ambassade dans mon Rapport sur les quais, et j'espère que vous n'y trouverez rien de déraisonnable.

J'ai communiqué aujourd'hui ces mêmes propositions à quelques-uns des négociants Anglais d'ici—en les invitant de les étudier—afin qu'à mon retour de ma partie de chasse je puisse recevoir d'eux une assurance formelle qu'ils seront satisfaits si la question sera réglée dans la manière proposée. J'ai raison à croire que le résultat sera satisfaisant.

Je serais heureux si, en même temps, je peux recevoir de vous une assurance non-officielle que, quant à la Société, ces propositions peuvent être considérées comme base pratique pour un arrangement permanent, afin qu'à mon retour à Constantinople ça me soit possible de constater à mon Ambassadeur que la question des 100 pics est en bon train d'être ensevelié pour toujours, grâce à l'esprit de conciliation que j'ai heureusement pu trouver des deux côtés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) H. TROTTER.

No. 96.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received February 11.)

Smyrna, February 11, 1882.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Smyrna Quay was sold the 16th January to English Company. Particulars by post.

No. 97.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)

Constantinople, February 13, 1882.

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING received from Consul Dennis, dated 10th instant:—

"Smyrna Quay sold to British Company the 16th January. Particulars to-morrow by post."

No. 98.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

Smyrna, February 10, 1882.

(No. 2. Commercial.)
My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Smyrna Quay was sold on the 16th January to an English Company.

I have to add, on the authority of M. Routier, the Advocate of the Quay Company, who negotiated the transfer, that the price to be paid by the English Company is 500,000*l*, for which sum the Quay Company cede to them all the rights and privileges accruing to them from the concessions made by the Ottoman Government, which rights and privileges will continue in force for thirty-two years, dating from May 1881. The Messrs. Dussaud also hand over to the English Company, for the above-mentioned consideration, all their lands, houses, magazines, and other buildings whatsoever; in a word, all their real property in Smyrna, situated on the Quay, Rue Parallèle, and adjacent streets, which was in their possession on the 16th, January, 1882, in perpetuity, together with all their outstanding credits connected with such property, amounting in value to about 32,000*l*.

Messrs. Dussaud further engage, for the additional sum of 20,000*l*., to complete the works of construction, pavage, drainage, &c., which they are bound to perform by their "Cahier des Charges."

I cannot yet ascertain if the English Company will accept all the new conditional engagements entered into by M. Guiffray on behalf of the Quay Company with Major Trotter, as M. Routier was not cognizant of those engagements at the time the sale was effected; but it seems probable that the new Company, together with the rights and privileges, will take over the engagements and liabilities also of the old Company.

I cannot learn more of the composition of the new Company than that it consists of a group of financiers, represented by their solicitor, Mr. Charles Wallis, who, with an engineer and accountant, is expected to arrive at Smyrna in two or three weeks. I am assured that the contract is already signed, subject to the

verification of the accounts submitted by Messrs. Dussaud, and of the condition of the property, and that these gentlemen will then be prepared to take over the quay.

It is a matter for great congratulation to the British mercantile community of Smyrna that this long-vexed question is now in a fair way of arriving at a speedy solution, especially seeing that by the transfer of this property to an English Company the political element is eliminated from it. The three great industrial enterprizes of Smyrna: the Ottoman Railway, the Cassaba Railway, and the Quay, will now be in English hands.

The repayment of the quay dues, arbitrarily exacted by the Porte, under the new Tariff, since the 1st May, 1880, which has been guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government to British merchants and dealers in British goods, and of which I have kept a careful register from that date, will, I conclude, be demanded from the Ottoman Government, on the final settlement of the question, into whatever hands the possession of the quay may pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

No. 99.

Sir C. Dilke to Consul Dennis.

(No. 4. Commercial.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 23, 1882.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 10th instant, reporting the purchase of the Smyrna Quays by an English Company. His Lordship approves your promptness in announcing this circumstance, and will be glad to receive any further particulars which you may obtain. I am at the same time to ask you to explain to what guarantee by Her Majesty's Government to British merchants and dealers in British goods you refer, for repayment of dues levied since the 1st May, 1880.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, February 25, 1882, 3:45 P.M.

UNLESS the purchase of the Smyrna Quays by an English Company induces you to think it better to act otherwise, you may urge the Porte to assent to the arrangements proposed in your despatch No. 18, Commercial, of the 31st ultimo, but the new English Company should be a consenting party.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 10. Commercial.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, February 25, 1882.

I HAVE had under consideration your Excellency's despatches Nos. 13, 14, and 18, Commercial, of the 25th and 31st ultimo, relative to the Smyrna Quay question, and I have now to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the proposed settlement set forth in your last-mentioned despatch, and authorize you to take the necessary steps to obtain the assent of the Porte to the arrangements suggested in it, but the new English Company ought to be a consenting party.

I have at the same time to express my approval of the action taken by your Excellency in this matter, and of Major Trotter's proceedings at Smyrna.

It does not appear what course is proposed to be taken with regard to the sums

which it is held that the Quay Company have improperly levied. I should be glad to learn your views on this point.

I have made known to your Excellency, by telegraph, the substance of this despatch. I inclose, under flying seal, a despatch which I have caused to be addressed to Mr. Consul Dennis in reply to his announcement of the purchase of the quays by an English Company. If this event, or any other circumstance, induces you to suspend your action in the matter, you will report to me before any steps are taken on this instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 102.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 23. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 22, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter on the subject of the Report that the Smyrna Quays had been sold to an English Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I have been informed by Mr. A. Caporal, the Constantinople agent of the "Société des Quais de Smyrne," that, as far as he is aware, no sale has actually been effected of the Quay Company's property.

The information he has received from Smyrna is to the effect that negotiations have been commenced, and that representatives of the proposed new Company are expected shortly to visit Smyrna, to examine into the state of the Société's affairs.

It is, however, by no means impossible that the Société may have named a price on payment of which they are willing to sell, but I imagine that everything will really depend on the report of the gentlemen who are expected to visit Smyrna on behalf of the new proposed Company.

I have been informed from another source that the transfer of the Smyrna Quays to English hands is regarded in certain Turkish circles as part of a deeply-laid political scheme for increasing English political influence in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 103.

Mr. Lord to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9.)

My Lord, *Chamber of Commerce, Manchester, March 7, 1882.*

A VERY influentially signed Memorial, relating to trade with Smyrna and Asia Minor, having been presented to this Chamber, I have now the honour of submitting a copy for your Lordship's consideration.

The memorialists having stated their case at great length, it is not necessary for me to do more than state that, briefly, their complaint is that a certain French Company, to which concessions were granted some years ago, is now levying dues so onerous as virtually to constitute a serious addition to the scale of import duties fixed by Treaty between England and Turkey. Such exactions, it is pointed out, are contrary to the spirit—if not the letter—of the Treaty referred to, as tacitly admitted by the Turkish Government, which, after urgent representations on the

part of merchants, granted about 80 yards of sea-shore, over which goods could be landed and loaded free into and from the custom-house.

This privilege was suddenly withdrawn in May 1880, and, under the monopoly then secured, the Quay Company above alluded to has resorted to the very onerous Tariff of charges of which a copy is attached to the Memorial. How far these exactions are under authority from the Turkish Government does not appear; but the Directors of this Chamber respectfully solicit your Lordship's attention to the whole subject, with a view to such action on the part of Her Majesty's Government as may appear likely to lead to the redress of the grievance complained of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. LORD, *President.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

Memorial addressed to the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,

THE Undersigned, merchants trading with Smyrna, or interested in Smyrna trade, beg respectfully to submit the following facts for the consideration of your Board of Directors, and to solicit your powerful help in applying to Her Majesty's Government for a redress of the grievances enumerated.

The city of Smyrna is the great emporium and outlet of the extensive trade of Western Asia Minor, and is beyond comparison the most important commercial town in the Turkish Empire. Its splendid port is visited by a large number of English vessels, which discharge there heavy supplies of Manchester goods and other English manufactures for distribution throughout Asia Minor, and then carry away the numerous and rich raw products of the same country. The larger portion of these is shipped to the United Kingdom, and a smaller share to Marseilles, Trieste, and other Continental ports. The value of the trade, imports and exports, probably exceeds 6 millions sterling, and is continually increasing as the railways which terminate at Smyrna are pushed further into the interior, and tap fresh regions of fertile soil.

The conditions under which this trade is carried on are regulated by the Treaties between Turkey on the one hand and Great Britain and other countries on the other; and amongst these conditions, one of the foremost, and a truly valuable safeguard for merchants, is that for their goods entering the custom-house they are to pay the customs duty fixed by Treaty, and not one "aspre" more ("aspre" being the smallest coin in Turkey).

Some years ago the Turkish Government granted a concession to a French Company for the construction of quays along the sea-board of the town of Smyrna, and in accordance with the terms of that concession the Quay Company proceeded to levy dues on goods which passed over their quays, but the right of merchants to land their goods at the custom-house free of all charges or dues beyond the customs duty fixed by Treaty was recognized by the Turkish Government, which, through the late Fuad Pasha, instructed the Governor of Smyrna that 100 pies (about 80 yards) were to be reserved at the custom-house for the free landing and loading of all goods.

Various attempts were made between the years 1876 and 1880 to induce merchants to abandon their right to a free custom-house, but no agreement was arrived at, when, by an act of the most arbitrary and violent character, against which the whole commercial community and many foreign Governments, including the British Government, protested energetically; the 100 pies of free quay at the custom-house were suddenly closed during the night on the 1st May, 1880, and dues began to be levied on all goods entering the custom-house, whether passing over the quays or not. Not only so, but by the fresh privileges conferred on the Quay Company by the Turkish Government a new Tariff of charges was sanctioned, and the Company was authorized to impose this tax on all goods landed or loaded within the radius of the Smyrna Customs Administration, thus giving the right of subjecting to this new impost, in addition to the fixed customs duty, not only the goods passing over the quays or going through the custom-house, but also all merchandize, of whatsoever nature, landed or loaded at any point in the port of Smyrna, which embraces a sea-board of 25 miles, although the quays themselves only extend along about 1½ miles of that distance.

The proceedings above set forth, besides others which it would take too long to relate here, have deeply impressed the Undersigned with the dangers that surround their trade from the arbitrary and uncertain action of the Turkish Government and the Quay Company combined. The town itself, and its merchants who carry on this great trade, have no voice or interest in the proceedings of the Quay Company whose sole aim is to tax the commerce of Smyrna to its utmost capacity, and to squeeze as much profit as can possibly be got out of it, utterly regardless of the interests of the town.

The quays and small port, although a great adornment to the town itself, are of very little use to commerce. The Company has obtained large sums by the sale of the land reclaimed from the sea, in most cases without any compensation to those whose right of foreshore was taken away from them; and for three-quarters of its length the quay is absolutely useless for merchandize, being simply a promenade in front of the houses built on the above-mentioned land. The quays themselves are very different from the Liverpool docks and other similar harbour works. They are narrow and inconvenient, without walls or sheds, and the goods have to be discharged on, or loaded from, an open and unprotected quay, more exposed to damage and pilfering than if on board lighters. Under these conditions, it is evident that any charge levied for the mere transit over the quay would be unjust. But it is now proposed to subject the commerce of Smyrna to an annual tax of 30,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* sterling, for the sole benefit of the Company which constructed these works. And, as if to prove how inadequate are the facilities and advantages offered in exchange for it, the free quay at the custom-house, which represented the old system of loading and landing goods by lighters, has been arbitrarily suppressed. This is enough to show that the Quay Company were conscious they could only get the trade into their grasp by doing away with the ancient Treaty rights of merchants in a free custom-house quay, and forcibly subjecting all goods to their system of dues.

The disastrous results to be apprehended from this monopoly of the sea-board, and handing over of an immense trade to the exactions of a private Company, are as follows:—

1. Merchants are exposed to all the vexations and losses which a body of officials, in a corrupt country, uncontrolled by public opinion or by any local authority, and free from all fear of competition, can inflict on them in the discharge and shipment of their goods.

2. A heavy tax, for which no corresponding advantages are given, is imposed on a great trade. The Tariff of dues is very onerous, as is shown by the annexed comparative list of some of the chief articles, in which the charges authorized by the two Tariffs are contrasted with the Liverpool dock dues. In many cases these charges amount to a considerable percentage of the customs duty payable to the Government, and will constitute a most serious increase of this duty under the name of quay dues.

3. Smyrna being a general emporium for merchandize, and especially Manchester goods and English manufactures generally, for the supply of consumers in various districts and islands, there is much fear that under the pressure of this unjust tax it will gradually lose a considerable part of its trade. It is certain that many country buyers, notably those of the adjacent ports and islands, have already begun to apply to other markets which are free from this impost, and in thus abandoning Smyrna for the purchase of some articles which are heavily weighted by these so-called quay dues, the necessary result is that these buyers will finish by drawing their supplies of all articles from elsewhere.

4. Owing to the privileges accorded to the French and Austrian lines of steamers, the tendency will be to drive to the ports of Marseilles and Trieste a certain amount of trade which is now done with England.

5. The principle of a new tax on goods, which, under the guise of dues, is the same thing as an increase of the customs duty, being thus established, it will be difficult to resist the attempts of the Turkish Government to levy fresh charges in other shapes, for instance, under the head of municipal or town dues, all of which, in Turkey, could be absorbed by the Government for its own purposes.

Your petitioners, after consideration of the circumstances, are strongly of opinion that no solution of the affair short of the retrocession of the 100 pics of free custom-house quay will be satisfactory.

Many of them are greviously taxed at the present moment by the heavy charges imposed on their goods at Smyrna by this Quay Company, and without any

appreciable benefit, and it does not appear that any mere partial reduction of the dues, such as is now proposed, would meet the case and place the trade of Smyrna on a satisfactory footing as regards the Quay Company, unless the free custom-house quay be restored, and a healthy competition be established between this quay, free of charges as heretofore, and the Quay Company's wharves.

If the latter should offer adequate advantages to shipping and to goods, they would speedily attract the trade, and thus secure the profit to which they would then be entitled; but without a free custom-house quay the commerce of Smyrna would be at the mercy of a private Company, which, in concert with the Turkish Government, could (as their past proceedings abundantly prove) override all the claims of justice and the remonstrances of foreign Powers, and impose such taxes as they thought proper.

Your petitioners, in respectfully submitting the above statement of facts for your consideration, beg you to take such steps with Her Majesty's Government as may best secure their rights, and obtain just treatment for the important trade of the United Kingdom with Smyrna and Asia Minor.

(Signed) STEPHEN SPARTALI AND Co.
(And others.)

Manchester, February 27, 1882.

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

TARIFF of Charges imposed by the Smyrna Quay Company.

Article.	Original Tariff.			New Tariff.			Liverpool Dock Rates.		
			Pra.			Pra.			
Butter	In Out	Per ton	9 9 = 18	In Out	Per ton	54 54 = 108	In Out	Per ton	£ s. d. Fra. 1 5 0 = 2 4 or 14
Cotton manufacture	In Out	Large bale	4 4 = 8	In Out	Per 16-Metal bale	21 21 = 42	In Out	Per bale	0 9 0 = 0 11½ or 6½
Canvas	In Out	Per bale	3 3 = 6	In Out	Per 7-Metal bale	10½ 10½ = 21	In Out	Per bale	0 9 0 = 0 11½ or 6½
Cordage	In Out	Per ton	24 24 = 48	In Out	Per ton	27 27 = 54	In Out	Per ton	1 0 0 = 2 0 or 12
Cotton	In Out	Per bale	3 3 = 6	In Out	Per bale	44 44 = 88	In Out	Per bale	0 5 0 = 0 6 or 5
Carpets	In Out	Per bale	3 3 = 6	In Out	Per bale	12 12 = 24	In Out	Per bale	0 9 0 = 0 11½ or 6½
Coal	In Out	Per ton	5 5 = 10	In Out	Per ton	12 12 = 24	In Out	Per ton	0 5 0 = 0 6 or 4½
Coffee	In Out	Per ton	12 12 = 24	In Out	Per ton	13 13 = 26	In Out	Per ton	1 0 0 = 2 0 or 12
Cottonseed	In Out	Per ton	21 21 = 42	In Out	Uncommercial.		In Out	Per ton	1 7 6 = 3 or 6½
Horses	In Out	Each	5 5 = 10	In Out	Trade	10 10 = 20	In Out	Each	0 9 = 1 6 or 9
Hardware	In Out	(3 pra. and 2 pra. per package, according to size.)		In Out	(11 pra. per Metal cwt. way, or 45 pra. per ton, and 45 pra. each.		In Out	Per package	0 3½ = 0 7
Iron	In Out	Per ton	9 9 = 18	In Out	Per ton	9 9 = 18	In Out	Per ton	On 5s. to 5s. 10d. per ton in or out, or 1 5 or 7½
Leather	In Out	Per ton	12 12 = 24	In Out	Per ton	54 54 = 108	In Out	Per ton	0 4 or 5
Mules	In Out	Each	5 5 = 10	In Out	Each	10 10 = 20	In Out	Each	0 2 or 4½
Opium	In Out	Per case	2 2 = 4	In Out	Per case	8 8 = 16	In Out	Per case	0 3 or 1½
Oil	In Out	Per ton	13½ 13½ = 27	In Out	Per ton	18 18 = 36	In Out	Per ton	2 0½ or 13½
Rice	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	1 1½ or 9
Raisins and figs	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	9 9 = 18	In Out	Per ton	2 0 or 12
Soap	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	18 18 = 36	In Out	Per ton	2 0 or 12
Sulphur	In Out	Per ton	30 30 = 60	In Out	Per ton	9 9 = 18	In Out	Per ton	1 1½ or 9
Sugar	In Out	Per ton	11 11 = 22	In Out	Per ton	33½ 33½ = 67	In Out	Per ton	2 0 or 12
Wheat	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	10 10 = 20	In Out	Per ton	1 2½ or 9½
Wool	In Out	Per ton	13½ 13½ = 27	In Out	Per ton	54 54 = 108	In Out	Per ton	2 0 or 12

No. 104.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Lord.

Foreign Office, March 11, 1882.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, with its inclosure, complaining of the onerous dues charged by the French Smyrna Quay Company; and I am to inform you, in reply, that this matter has for some time past engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and that papers will shortly be laid before Parliament, from which the Manchester Chamber of Commerce will learn what has been done in regard to it.

I am to add that the quay appears now to be the property of an English Company.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 12.)

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 11, 1882.

WITH reference to Smyrna Quays, I think it is desirable that the agent of the new Company should come to Constantinople to discuss the arrangements proposed by Major Trotter. Could the Foreign Office communicate with the Company?

No. 106.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. Macdonald.

Foreign Office, March 14, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter to Mr. Gladstone of the 25th January,* announcing your conditional purchase of the Smyrna Quays on behalf of a British Company, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that it is very desirable that the agent of the Company should discuss with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople certain proposed arrangements between the French Company and the Commissioners appointed by the Porte and Her Majesty's Embassy to inquire into certain complaints brought against the French Company.

I am accordingly to suggest that the agent of the British Company should be instructed to proceed to Constantinople with as little delay as possible, and place himself in communication with Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 107.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March .)

(No. 29. Commercial.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1882.

My Lord,

I REFERRED the points raised by your Lordship in your despatch No. 10, Commercial, of the 25th ultimo, with reference to the repayment of the Smyrna dues levied under protest since the closing of the free space in front of the custom-house, to Major Trotter for his opinion.

I now beg to inclose an interesting despatch from that officer, in which he reviews this part of the question. I am inclined to coincide with Major Trotter in the view which he has expressed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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* See No. 92.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 7.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1882.

My Lord,

IN my General Report on the Smyrna Quay question I purposely refrained from adding to its actual complications by making definite proposals with reference to the claims for the repayment of the dues levied by the Société since the forcible closing of the free space on the 1st May, 1880.

I had at one time hoped that the British merchants of Smyrna would have been induced to waive their claims for the repayment of these dues if the proposals made in my Report should be carried out in their entirety, and in point of fact I had actually embodied a proposal to that effect in my scheme for the settlement of the question, but I was at the last moment induced to withdraw it, as I was given to understand that I might otherwise fail to obtain for my proposals the assent of the Smyrna mercantile community.

Her Majesty's Government has assented to the principle that the quay question should, if possible, be settled on the basis laid down in Mr. Jocelyn's note to the Porte of the 18th April, 1877.

It will be recollected that in that document Her Majesty's Government assented to the closing of the free space on the condition, *inter alia*, that the then Tariff of quay dues should be reduced in such a manner as to satisfy all parties concerned. Had such an approved Tariff been put in force on the closing of the free space on the 1st May, 1880, and had proper facilities also been given for enabling vessels to discharge their goods alongside the quay, the merchants would have had no reasonable grounds of complaint. The proposals recently made for the settlement of the question will, I trust, secure to the commerce of Smyrna at an early date the advantages now quoted, and it would, in that case, seem to be an equitable decision, that the merchants should be recouped the difference between the sums that since the 1st May, 1880, have actually been paid, or will have been paid, under the old Tariff, and the sums which would have been levied under such Tariff as may finally be agreed upon as the legal Tariff of the future.

It has been suggested that the whole of the dues levied since the 1st May, 1880, should be repaid to the British merchants, but such an arrangement appears to me to be neither just nor practicable, although there would be justice in the claim should the present negotiations fail and Her Majesty's Government have to revert to the demand for the restitution of free access to the custom-house.

It has further been suggested that Her Majesty's Government has guaranteed the repayment of these dues; but there would appear to be no solid foundation for this idea.

Her Majesty's Ambassador, it is true, on the day the free space was closed, protested energetically against that act, and stated that the Sublime Porte would be held responsible for the consequences. Mr. Consul Dennis also protested on the same day, and, in the name of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, declared that he held the Porte responsible for all losses, damages, and interest of whatever description that might accrue to British merchants or to British commerce. Mr. Dennis' proceedings were subsequently approved of by Lord Granville (despatch No. 4, Commercial, of the 18th May, 1880).

On the other hand, Sawas Pasha, on the closing of the free space, declared to the Ambassador that—

"La Société des Quais de Smyrne ayant demandé par l'intermédiaire de l'Ambassade de France le retrait de la mesure de suspension qui lui cause un dommage journalier considérable, et ayant en même temps pris l'engagement de restituer au commerce toute somme qu'elle aurait perçue en trop dans le cas où le Tarif viendrait à être réduit, la Sublime Porte s'est vue dans la nécessité d'autoriser la reprise des travaux et la mise en vigueur du nouveau Tarif."

"Votre Excellence voudra bien considérer que cette mesure à la fois de prudence et d'équité ne lèse aucun intérêt, puisque le commerce sera remboursé de ce qu'il aurait payé en trop suivant les résolutions qui seront prises incessamment pour la révision éventuelle du Tarif, tandis que le maintien de l'interdiction eut été pour la Société des Quais de Smyrne la source de pertes irréparables et dont la Sublime Porte ne pouvait assumer la responsabilité."

A day or two previously the Prime Minister had telegraphed to the Governor-General of Smyrna that "the Company of Dussaud have engaged that should the said

Tariff be modified they will return to the merchants any excess of dues levied by them from this day to the date of such modification of the Tariff."

It appears therefore incontestable that the Porte is bound, either itself, or through the intermediary of the Société des Quais, to restore to the commercial community of Smyrna the difference between the dues actually levied under the old Tariff, from the 1st May, 1880, up to the date of the application of a new Tariff, and the dues on the same goods calculated according to the new Tariff, which it is now proposed to fix.

As far as I am aware, the Société des Quais do not admit this liability themselves, nor have I seen any documents confirming the statements by Savas and Saïd Pashas, but it is quite possible that some such document does exist which binds down the Société. With that, however, we have nothing to do; it is clearly the Sublime Porte which is responsible to Her Majesty's Government, and in point of fact I was given to understand while at Smyrna that the Porte had refrained from disbursing to the Smyrna Municipality, as had been promised, its 12 per cent. share of the quay receipts for last year, and that this was done in order to have a sum of money available for meeting the above claims.

This 12 per cent., if still available, would amount to between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.* per annum, and would, I think, be more than sufficient to meet all just claims on this score.

The settlement of such claims, however, would be very complicated, from the nature of the alterations it is proposed to make in the new Tariff, and from various other circumstances into which it is unnecessary here to enter, but which would seem to render it desirable, if it can be arranged in the course of the approaching negotiations, that this sum be set off against some equivalent advantages to be obtained from the Porte or from the Quay Company.

I may add that while last at Smyrna in December last I examined the Register Book kept at the British Consulate, and the total amount of receipts then registered did not, if I recollect aright, amount to more than 2,000*l.*, probably not one-fifteenth part of the dues actually levied on goods passing over the quays. British exports and imports probably constitute at least one-half of the trade of Smyrna. There would, however, undoubtedly be a rush to register if the merchants saw the prospect of any immediate advantage being gained by so doing.

In support of the views I hold on this question, I would beg to ask your Excellency's attention to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 21, Commercial, of the 20th August, 1880, where his Excellency writes, "The dues, since the closing of the free space, are rendered compulsory, and appear to be considered so excessive and unfair that, though levied with the understanding that in the event of subsequent modifications of the Tariff, the money paid in excess shall be returned, it becomes a matter for serious consideration, seeing the daily increasing indebtedness to the merchants, that not a moment should be lost in settling the question, as the longer it is delayed the greater will become the disinclination of the responsible parties to accept Tariff modifications involving heavy repayments to the merchants."

It must be borne in mind that the greater the concessions that are made by the Porte and by the Société des Quais, the greater will be the claims against them under this head, and this is one of many reasons which have prevented me hitherto from giving these claims a prominent place. It might, however, be desirable to add to the conditions of settlement to be proposed to the Porte that the 12 per cent. share of the Company's gross receipts in the interval between the suppression of the free space and the introduction of a new and approved Tariff be set aside for the purpose of repayment of the excess of dues levied under the old Tariff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 108.

*Mr. Macdonald to Sir Charles W. Dilke.**—(*Received March* 21.)

Sir, 8, *St. Michael's Road, Clapham, London, March* 20, 1882.

IN reply to the communication which I had the honour to receive from you respecting the conditional purchase of the Smyrna Quay property by my friends, I beg leave to say that only to-day did the Engineer lay before them his Report upon the condition and revenue of it. He also brought with him the written opinion on Messrs. Dussaud's titles, supplied by a Smyrna lawyer recommended to us for the purpose by Her Majesty's Consul at that port.

My friends will, of course, oblige the vendors to give them a perfectly clear title, and one free from all difficulties, before signing the definitive contract.

Thanking you for the suggestion you have made, I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACDONALD.

No. 109.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 15. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1882.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 29, Commercial, of the 14th instant, inclosing a Report from Major Trotter on the question of the repayment of the Smyrna Quay dues illegally levied since the closing of the free space in 1880; and I have to inform your Excellency that I approve Major Trotter's suggestion for the settlement of this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 110.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 24.)

(No. 3. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Smyrna, March* 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Charles Dilke's despatch No. 4, Commercial, of the 23rd February, 1882, and, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions that I should explain to what guarantee I referred in my despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 10th February, as having been given by Her Majesty's Government to the British merchants and dealers in British goods at Smyrna for the repayment to them of the dues levied by the Quay Company since the 1st May, 1880, I have the honour to state the following facts in explanation.

It was on the day mentioned that the Ottoman authorities forcibly and arbitrarily closed the space of shore of 100 pics which, on the construction of the quay, had been reserved to secure to the merchants that free access to the custom-house which they had enjoyed from time immemorial; which had been guaranteed to them by the Capitulations, under which they were to be charged fixed customs dues inwards and outwards, and "not an asper more"; and confirmed by the special engagement made with Her Majesty's Ambassador by Fuad Pasha on the 1st April, 1868, when, in announcing the grant of a concession by the Sultan for the construction of a quay at Smyrna, he wrote thus:—

"Je ferai en même temps remarquer à votre Excellence qu'il ne sera point obligatoire pour les bâtiments d'accoster le quai, et qu'ils seront libres d'embarquer et de débarquer comme aujourd'hui à la Douane; le droit de quai n'étant payable que par ceux qui voudront en faire usage."

I have the honour to remind your Lordship that, although this free access was closed on the 1st May, 1880, the merchants of Smyrna had been threatened to be deprived of it for some months previous. In fact, it had been intended by the Porte to close it on the 13th March of that year, but owing to the energetic remonstrances

* Copy to Lord Dufferin, March 22.

and protests of Her Majesty's Ambassador, supported by Her Majesty's Govern ment, the contemplated closing was deferred for a couple of months.

On the 23rd February I informed Sir Henry Layard that I had received a confirmation of the rumoured intention of the Porte to close the 100 pics from the lips of the Governor-General himself, and had protested verbally in strong terms against so egregious a breach of faith on the part of the Ottoman Government. In his reply of the 26th February his Excellency expressed his approval of the language I had held to his Highness, and added:—

"I have to request that you will formally renew your protest against the proceedings contemplated by the authorities, and that you will inform his Highness that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Porte responsible for all losses and damages which may accrue to British merchants in consequence thereof."

These instructions I duly and strictly obeyed. Copy of my protest to his Highness Hamdi Pasha was inclosed in my despatch No. 3, Commercial, of the 5th March, 1880.

In confirmation of the instructions given me by Sir Henry Layard, I received the following telegram from the Secretary of State:—

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Dennis.

"*Foreign Office, March* 9, 1880, 3:30 P.M.

"Sir H. Layard has been requested to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will consider the Turkish Government responsible for charges levied on British subjects or goods, if any change is made in existing arrangements at Smyrna pending an understanding on the subject."

I made the contents of Sir Henry's despatch and Lord Salisbury's telegram known to the British merchants, who were chafing under the prospect of the enforced payment of quay dues, and they naturally and justly hailed these protests of Her Majesty's Government as a guarantee that their interests were not to be sacrificed to those of the Quay Company, and that whatever sums might be exacted from them under the new Tariff of dues would eventually be repaid to them by the Ottoman Government on the final settlement of the Quay question.

In view of the threatened closing of the free shore on the 13th March, and in reference to Lord Salisbury's telegram, I addressed on the 11th March a telegram and despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador requesting instructions for the guidance of the merchants in the event of the closing being effected, and I suggested that they should pay under protest, and deposit at the Consulate day by day for registration the receipts given by the Quay Company for the sums that might be exacted from them in the shape of quay dues. To this suggestion I received a reply from his Excellency on the 12th March:—

"Act as you propose in your telegram of yesterday, and inform me at once."

In consequence of the protests of Her Majesty's Government, the 100 pics were not closed on the 13th March, the Porte ordering the Governor-General of Smyrna to suspend the closing until further orders.

Matters remained *in statu quo* until the 1st May, 1880, on which morning it was found that the passage for lighters to the old custom-house had been blocked up during the night. On that day I received telegraphic instructions from Sir Henry Layard to protest formally and energetically against this gross breach of faith on the part of the Ottoman Government.

Against this arbitrary act I accordingly protested in the strongest terms I could use, for it was impossible to regard it otherwise than as a deliberate and defiant insult to Her Majesty's Government, and to all the other Powers with which the Porte had contracted similar engagements. In the despatch I wrote on the 2nd May, 1880, to Sir Henry Layard, copy of which was inclosed to the Foreign Office in my despatch No. 11, Commercial, of the 3rd, I made reference to the expectations of the merchants that Her Majesty's Government would take measures to secure to them repayment of the moneys exacted from them in the shape of quay dues, in reply to which despatch I received a despatch from Sir Charles Dilke, dated the 18th May, informing me that your Lordship approved of my proceedings in the matter of the quay, and that Mr. Goschen had received instructions as to the communication he was to make to the Porte on the subject. On the 5th June Mr. Goschen telegraphed to me stating that he was about to take action in the matter, and inquiring what steps were being taken by me to keep an account of the quay dues paid under protest.

My reply to this telegram was a despatch dated the 8th June, in which I explained why and how I registered the receipts given by the Quay Company for the dues that had been paid since the closing of the 100 pics. I cannot state the matter more clearly than in the words of that despatch, and have therefore the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith.

Your Lordship will perceive that the guarantee referred to in my despatch of the 23rd February last was really given by Her Majesty's Government of that day to the British merchants and dealers in British goods that the sums exacted from them by the Quay Company in the shape of dues should, on the final settlement of the Quay question, be repaid to them by the Porte, through the pressure which would be brought to bear upon it by Her Majesty's Government. The merchants have always regarded the matter in this light, and have looked forward to the settlement of the Quay question as for them a day of reckoning with those who had violently deprived them of their rights. Owing to various causes, which I need not specify, the settlement has been deferred for nearly two years, but the delay, not having been caused by the merchants, cannot, in their opinion, in any way invalidate their claims against the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Consul Dennis to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Smyrna, June* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the following telegram from your Excellency:—

"*Therapia, June* 5.

"Action about to be taken here respecting the Quay question. Ascertain and inform me by letter what steps are being taken to keep an account of dues paid under protest, and to insure the safe custody of these sums.—GOSCHEN."

In reply, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that from the 1st May, the day on which the Quay Company forcibly closed the 100 pics of free space, and brought their new Tariff of dues into operation, I have made it known to all British merchants and others interested in the trade with Great Britain that on producing at this Consulate their receipts for the sums exacted as quay dues, they would be registered as claims against the Ottoman Government, satisfaction for which would be made to the holders whenever it might please Her Majesty's Government to insist on the repayment of these illegal exactions on British commerce, for which they had officially announced that they held the Porte responsible.

In registering these receipts, I take note of the date and number of the receipt, also of the date of its registration, the description of goods, the number of packages, &c., and the amount paid for quay dues, and I record on the receipt itself the fact of its registration.

I should give your Excellency to understand that although certain of these sums exacted as quay dues have been paid under special protest, this is not the case with the majority of these payments, many of which are of small amount, in some instances only a few piastres. It was generally considered that the formal protests made by myself on the 1st March and 1st May last, seconded by Sir Henry Layard, and backed by Her Majesty's Government, would be sufficient to secure the rights of the merchants to repayment, without a special protest being made in every instance.

As regards your Excellency's inquiry what steps are being taken to secure the safe custody of the sums paid as quay dues under protest, I can only reply that the Quay Company exact the sums in question in virtue of a right conceded to them by the Porte by Firman, and ignore all conflicting rights on the part of the merchants, so that the money naturally finds its way into the Company's coffers, whence it can only be extracted by some powerful pressure exerted on the Porte by Her Majesty's Government. There are no means of avoiding these exactions, for when merchandize is brought to the custom-house, and has paid the ordinary duties, inwards or outwards, Messrs. Dussaud step in, and will not permit it to be removed until their demands under the new Tariff have also been satisfied.

I may be allowed to add that the British mercantile community here have heard with much pleasure that this long-pending question is likely to be speedily settled. They express, however, their earnest hope that it will be by securing to them an equivalent free space in front of the new custom-house, and not by a mere modification of the Tariff. But should it nevertheless be decided to be effected by this means, they at least trust that the revision will take place on the spot, rather than at Constantinople, where their interests cannot possibly be so well understood or safeguarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

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No. 111.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 33. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28, Commercial, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Dennis on the subject of the projected sale of the Smyrna Quays to an English Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Consul Dennis to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Smyrna, March 3, 1882.*

IN reply to your Lordship's Confidential despatch of the 23rd ultimo, in which you inform me that Major Trotter is of opinion that no sale of the Smyrna Quay has actually been effected, as I had the honour to report in my despatch of the 10th February, but that negotiations merely had been commenced with a view to the transfer of the quay to an English Company, I have now the honour to report that I have this morning seen Mr. White, the agent for the purchasers in England, who fully confirms the statement I made in my said despatch. Mr. White assures me that the sale has been made and the contract signed, subject only to verification of the financial statement of Messrs. Dussaud and the value of the property, for which purpose he visits Smyrna. This done, the transfer will be made.

I am assured that Messrs. Dussaud are bound by their contract to sell the quay and all their real property connected with it on the terms agreed on, but that the English purchasers are free to retire from the bargain only in case the property, on examination, is found to fall short of the value set upon it by Messrs. Dussaud; but, if my information be correct, that since the contract was signed it has been ascertained that Messrs. Dussaud have by mistake considerably understated the value of the land and buildings pertaining to the quay, it does not appear probable that the English purchasers will be willing to withdraw from the contract, even were they able to do so.

I also hear that the impending transfer is not viewed favourably by the Turkish authorities for reasons which it is not difficult to divine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

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